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THE Wrestler

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

In-Depth Analyses:

WORLD TAG TITLE POWER SHIFT!

BARRY WINDHAM & LEX LUGER

*Was Their Title Reign Sabotaged
By A Horsemen-Windham Plot?*

DEMOLITION

*Fluke Champions Or
Champions To Stay?*



TERRY TAYLOR:
"I CAN REUNITE
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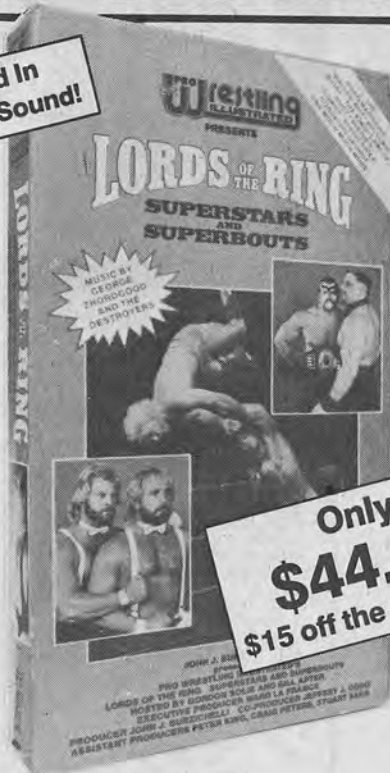
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COVER PHOTOS:

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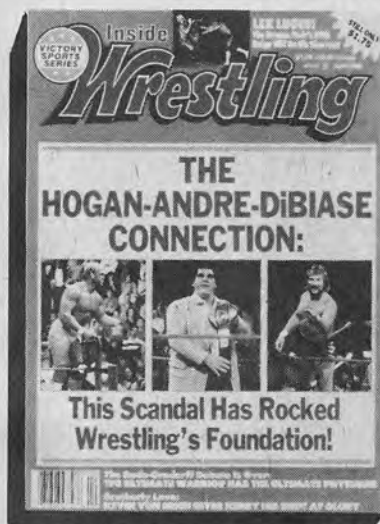
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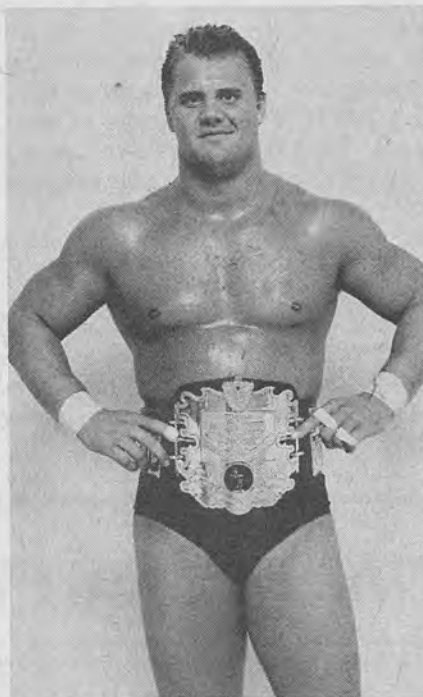
A BAD PARENT

I am taking this opportunity to categorically disagree with reader Jerry Parent's letter ("More Space For AWA") in the May 1988 issue. I think Parent should be reminded of several key facts.

Recognizing the AWA as a major federation was fine 10 years ago—even five years ago—but nowadays it just doesn't work. Nobody believes it anymore when your magazine calls Curt Hennig the *World* heavyweight champion, or when you refer to The Midnight Rockers as *World* tag team champions. Clearly, the only federations deserving "world" status at this time are the NWA and the WWF.

The AWA was at one time a great federation, and is still a proving ground for talent. But if you are going to give them world title status, why not also give it to World Class? Or how about to ACCW or the NWF or either of the two WWAs? Or maybe you could even give it to all the little independent promotions in Nebraska that regularly pack arenas and high schools with as many as 20 people? Don't you see how ridiculous this is?

MIKE KOZBIAL
Coaldale, Alberta



Curt Hennig's status as AWA World champion is seriously questioned by reader Mike Kozbial, who doesn't think the AWA has top-flight wrestling anymore.

WORLD CLASSY

This is an open letter to anyone who still tries to denigrate World Class wrestling:

World Class has had its ups and downs over the past few years, but this federation is finally shaping up for the better. Its matches on televi-

sion are always of main-event caliber. That's more than I can say about the colossal giants like the NWA and WWF.

Since its association with Wild West, World Class has been on the receiving end of a great influx of talent. Most of this talent consists of former UWF stars like Terry Taylor, Al Perez, Chris Adams, The Freebirds, and The Missing Link, to name just a few. Add these luminaries to the substantial talent of the Von Erichs, and you have the makings of a fine wrestling organization.

DIANE SEALS
Jenks, OK

WRESTLING DOWN UNDER

How about a word from your readers down in Australia? We wrestling fans down under have some very important comments to make.

First of all, the only live wrestling we get to see is whenever the WWF deigns to tour Australia. They did so last year, but did not bring any of their champions or any of their top challengers. Although the matches we saw were exciting, they were hardly important bouts.

(Continued on page 56)

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

ONLY MOMENTS AFTER teaming with **Sting** to win the third annual \$1-million Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina, **Lex Luger** revealed to a large gathering of media representatives at the Greensboro Coliseum that he was driven to win the tournament by his desire to teach former teammate **Barry Windham** a lesson.

"Where was Barry tonight?" Luger said with a combination of immense satisfaction over winning the prestigious tournament and heartbreaking dismay over losing his former best friend to **The Four Horsemen**. "I might not have that belt [the NWA World tag team championship] anymore, but I have something more important: self-respect. I know all about the Horsemen, and all I can tell Barry is that he made a big mistake."

Luger gained some measure of revenge by defeating **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** in the final round. Only three days earlier in Jacksonville, Florida, Luger and Windham lost the tag belts to Tully and Arn when Windham turned against his partner at the end of the match (see page 34). And



Led by Magnum T.A. (right), Sting and Lex Luger won the 1988 Crockett Cup tag team tournament. Only one week earlier, both men were scheduled to tag with different partners.

Luger made up for his loss in last year's final round, when he and Tully were beaten by **Dusty Rhodes** and **Nikita Koloff**.

Sting was scheduled to team with **Ronnie Garvin**, but Garvin had to pull out when he suffered a serious chest injury in a brawl following his brother **Jim Garvin's** "Prince of Darkness" match against **Kevin Sullivan** on the first tournament night in Greenville,

South Carolina. In that brawl, Sullivan hit Ronnie with a spike. Luger was also without a partner when he and Windham split up, so a last-minute decision was made to pair him with Sting. **Magnum T.A.**, who was all set to manage Sting and Garvin, was at ringside for Sting and Luger throughout the tournament.

After a first-round bye, Luger
(Continued on page 46)

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This sensational special issue of *Inside Wrestling* is cover-dated September 1988, and goes on sale July 12. It’s guaranteed to be a sellout, so get to your newsstand early!

THE BEST JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Richfield, OH (Correspondent—Mike McGuire): The final match of an exciting WWF card at the Richfield Coliseum was a free-for-all brawl in which the wrestlers could wear and bring whatever they wanted into the ring. The participants were Brutus Beefcake, Jacques and Raymond Rougeau, Hacksaw Duggan, Ken Patera, George "The Animal" Steele, Hillbilly Jim, Outback Jack, Ron Bass, Samoan Sika, Ultimate Warrior, Iron Sheik, Junkyard Dog, Lanny Poffo, Greg Valentine, Dino Bravo, Harley Race, Hercules Hernandez, Demolition, and Mr. Fuji. Poffo wore a suit of armor, Bravo wore hockey gear, and Demolition wore their usual spikes.

The match started with the wrestlers pounding on the person closest to them. Wrestlers soon started flying over the ropes in every direction until it was down to Bass, Bravo, and Duggan. Bass and Bravo double-teamed Duggan and threw him over the ropes, but he landed on the ring apron and never hit the floor. While Bravo and Bass celebrated, Hacksaw climbed back in the ring and gave them a double-clothesline, knocking them to the floor and scoring the victory.

In other bouts: Ted DiBiase defeated Bam Bam Bigelow by



Hacksaw Duggan brawled his way to victory in a come-as-you-are battle royal in Richfield, Ohio.

countout ... Brutus Beefcake pinned Greg Valentine ... The Jumping Bomb Angels beat The Glamour Girls ... Ultimate Warrior defeated Harley Race ... Demolition beat the Rougeaus ... Dino Bravo defeated Junkyard Dog ... Hercules Hernandez beat Hillbilly Jim ... Iron Sheik pinned Lanny Poffo.

Norfolk, VA (Correspondents—Pete Evans & Brian Parsons): It was a tremendous card at the Norfolk Scope as the main event saw Sting challenge NWA World champion Ric Flair in a cage. Sting gained the early advantage by using the cage itself as an offensive weapon against Flair. He maintained a strong advantage until Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson made their way to the ring.

Sting put the scorpion leglock on Flair, but referee Tommy (Continued on page 44)



Sting slugs Ric Flair during a cage match. Flair needed the Horsemen's help to defeat Sting and retain his title in Norfolk, Virginia.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD FANS!

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

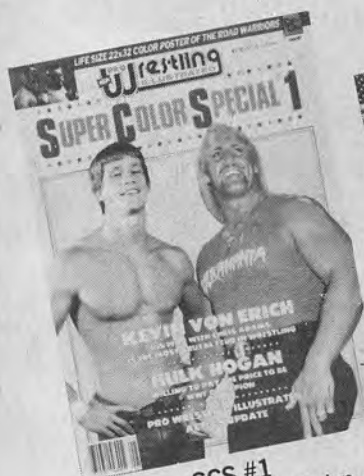
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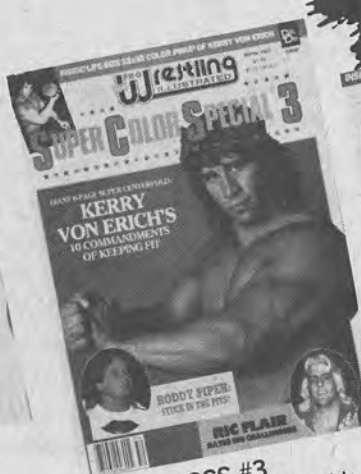
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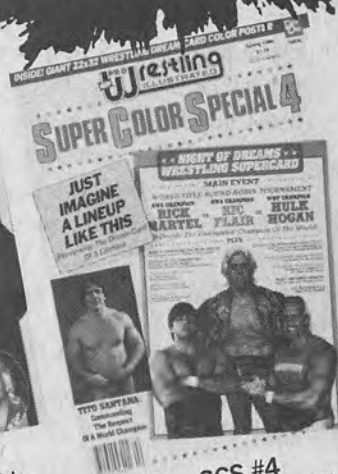
SCS #1
SuperCenterfold: Road Warriors



SOLD OUT



SCS #3
SuperCenterfold: Kerry Von Erich



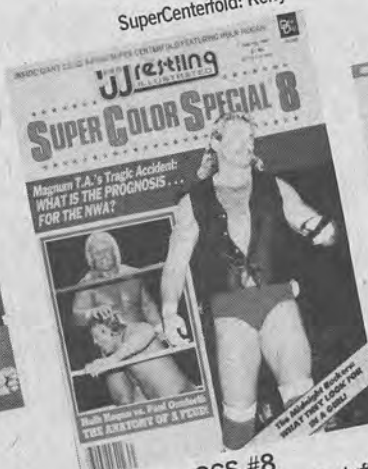
SCS #4
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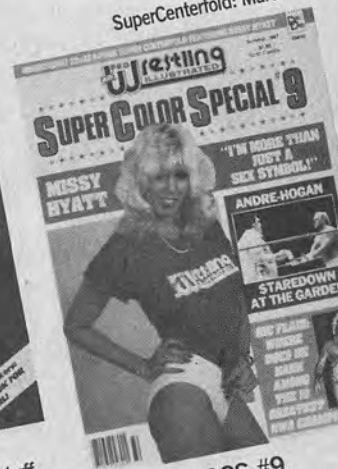
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SCS #8
SuperCenterfold: Hogan vs. Orndorff



SCS #9
SuperCenterfold: Missy Hyatt

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Alternate choices

Q: "My question is for Curt Hennig: You're the best looking man in the sport today, and also the best wrestler. Have you ever thought about getting a manager to take care of your business affairs?"—Brandi Dillon, Atlanta

A: "Money has never been a problem for me," Hennig replied. "I make it and I spend it. Simple. I don't need any grubby manager taking 10 percent or more out of my hard-earned dough. My dad has warned me many times to stay away from people like that. He says they're nothing but a bunch of leeches who prey off your labor. My business is *my business*, nobody else's. If a guy is down and out and needs somebody to manage his affairs, that's his prerogative, but it's not the way I operate."

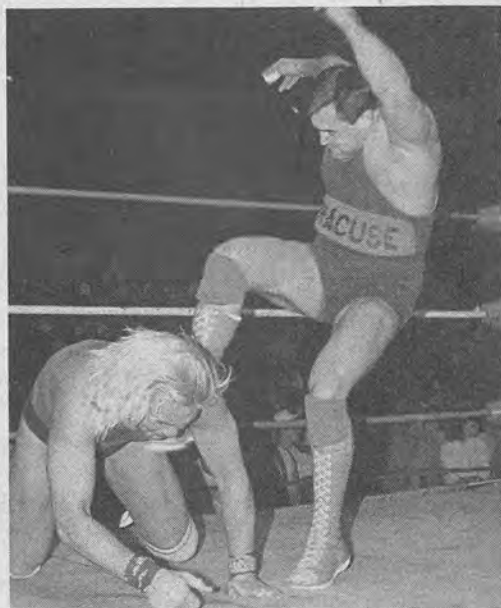
Q: "My question is for Barry Windham: How do you feel about Mike Rotundo now that he has apparently

YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers **ALL** your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: **YOU ASKED US**, c/o **THE WRESTLER**, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

turned rulebreaker? I think he was brainwashed by that no-good bum Kevin Sullivan."—Robert Gruber, Newburgh, NY

A: "Brainwashed is *exactly* the right word," Windham said. "The Mike Rotundo you see now is definitely not the same man who was my partner for so many years. It just



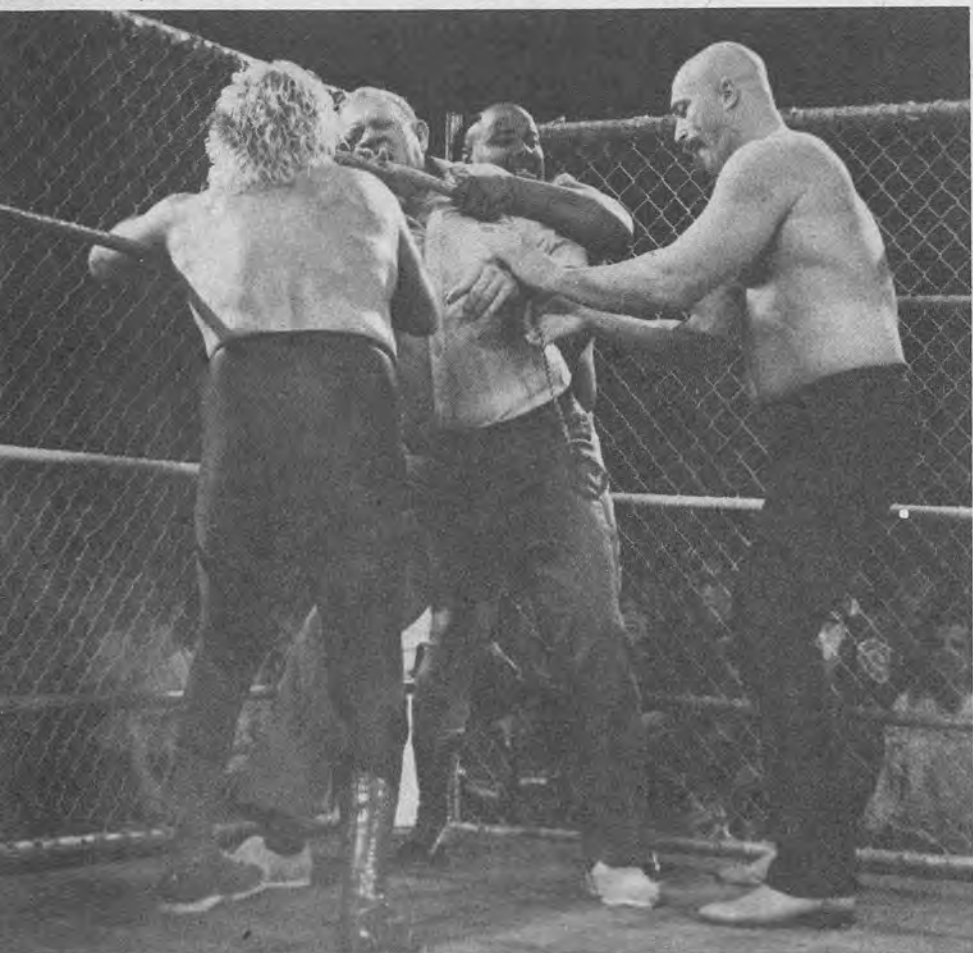
Mike Rotundo kicks his old friend and partner Barry Windham in the head. Windham doesn't like the way Rotundo has allowed Kevin Sullivan to control his career.

amazes me how Mike would allow a slime like Sullivan to gain any control over him. Sullivan has a history of doing this kind of thing. Mike knew that. He should have been more careful, but he blew it. I'm finally starting to realize that Mike isn't going to change soon, though I'm hoping he does. His friends are still rooting for him to snap out of it."

Q: "My question is for Michael Hayes: Do you think there's any chance the other Freebirds and you will get back together, despite what Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and Angel of Death did to Fritz Von Erich?"—John Robert Chianese, Larchmont, NY

A: "Cheap shot, cheap shot, cheap shot," Hayes said. "They sure feel good about beatin' up an old man, don't they? I'm not hidin' anything; Michael Hayes has beat up a lot of

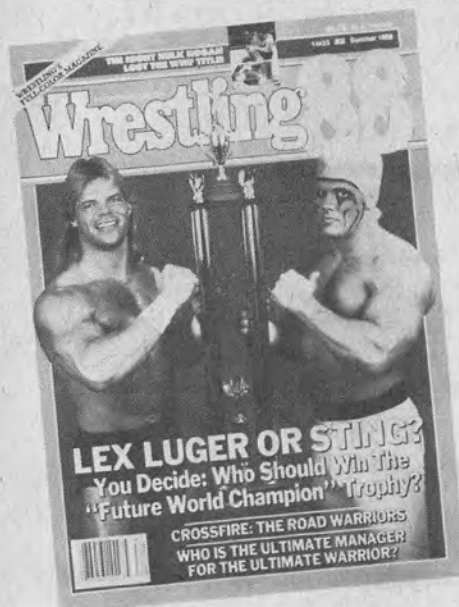
(Continued on page 60)



Buddy Roberts, Iceman Parsons, and Angel of Death's attack on Fritz Von Erich was not condoned by Michael Hayes, despite what Hayes once felt about the Von Erichs.

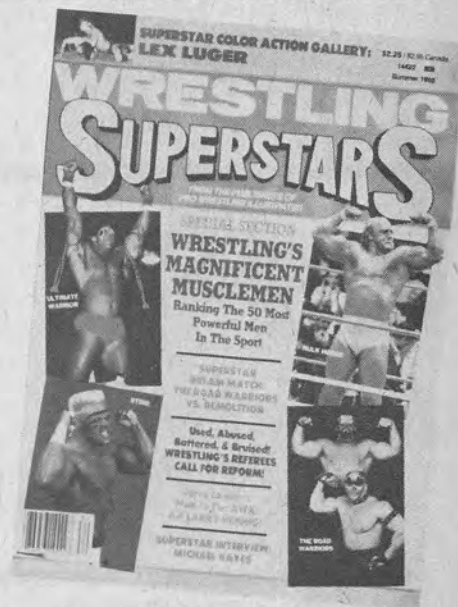
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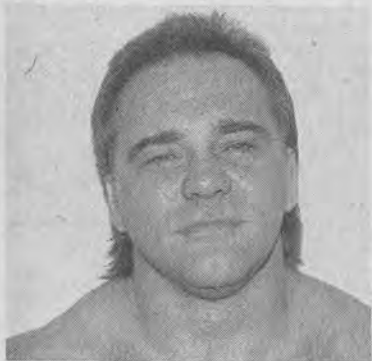
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Thumbs Up

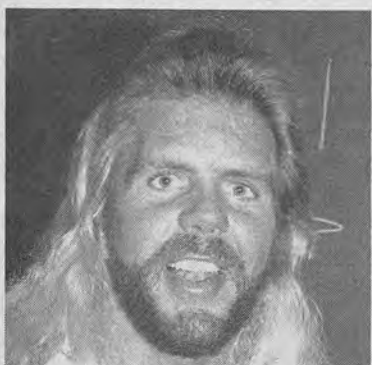
Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



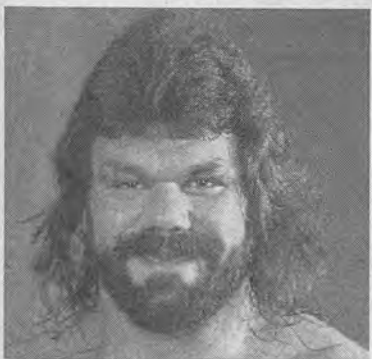
Thumbs Up to Randy Savage. And a hearty congratulations to the "Macho Man" for winning the WWF World title tournament at WrestleMania IV. Savage survived four grueling rounds before he earned the right to wear the belt, and while doing so showed the meaning of true sportsmanship. Don't blame Savage for Hulk Hogan's interference in the final match against Ted DiBiase. Savage was simply trying to offset Andre the Giant, who lurked dangerously in DiBiase's corner. Savage proved with his victories that he is worthy of the title. Now let's hope he defends the belt more than once a week.



Thumbs Up to Larry Zbyszko. Firing Baby Doll was the best thing Zbyszko ever did—and he did it before this devious blonde viper could cast her spell on him. Baby Doll has had a history of leading men down the road to ruin; use them, abuse them, then throw them away seems to be her motto. But in this case, Zbyszko got what he wanted out of Baby Doll (an introduction to the NWA) and tossed her aside when the brilliantly devious Gary Hart came to the NWA from World Class. Hart is evil, but he always has his wrestlers' best interests at heart. Zbyszko is now in good shape.

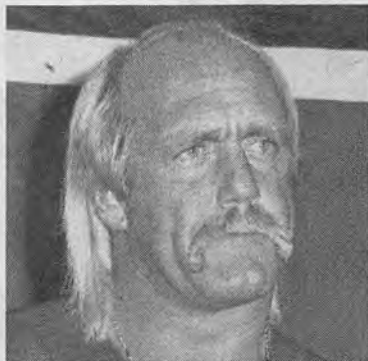


Thumbs Up to Michael Hayes. We never thought we'd see a member of the notorious Freebirds siding with the Von Erich family, but strange things are happening in the World Class area. Hayes, who has obviously learned from his mistakes, refused to join his former buddies Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts in their violent and needless war against the Von Erich family. But instead of standing aside and not getting involved, Hayes decided to fight for what was right. Let's hope that Hayes doesn't go back to his old ways. The fans have certainly taken to this charismatic star from Badstreet U.S.A.!



Thumbs Up to Steve Williams. "Dr. Death" is back where he belongs: in the NWA. That's certainly good news for wrestling fans, but bad news for World champion Ric Flair, who already has his hands full with Sting. Williams was often criticized for being an underachiever until he won the UWF title. Then, when the UWF title was eliminated by NWA President Jim Crockett, Williams left the area briefly. Now that Williams is back in the NWA, he can do what he was always meant to do: go after the World title. Watch out, Flair! "Dr. Death" is after you!

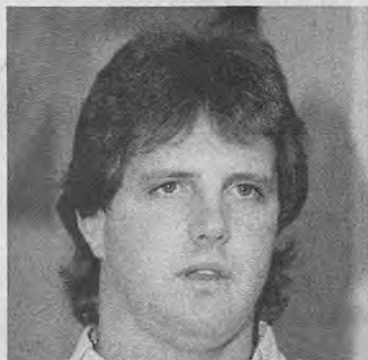
Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Hulk Hogan. "The Hulkster" has found a home on our roll call of shame. Two months ago, the former WWF World champion was criticized for his behavior following the February 5 match against Andre the Giant. Now we must take Hogan to task once again, this time for interfering in the final round of the WrestleMania IV title tournament and besmirching the integrity of the belt he once so proudly held. But even worse, Hogan set a bad example for all his fans. Was it right for Hogan to run into the ring and hit DiBiase over the head with a steel chair? We think not.



Thumbs Down to Dusty Rhodes. "The American Dream" might think he's fooling the fans, NWA officials, and J.J. Dillon, but in fact, he's only fooling himself. Rhodes has always stood for honesty, integrity, class, and fair play. By parading around as The Midnight Rider—despite a 120-day suspension levied against him by NWA President Jim Crockett—Rhodes is doing what Dillon and company could never do: destroy the Dusty legend. We can understand why Rhodes attacked Tully Blanchard and Crockett, but he still should have taken his suspension like a man. For shame!



Thumbs Down to Chris Adams. Give it up, Chris! Adams is so consumed by his feud with Terry Taylor in the World Class area that he actually accused Taylor of paying WWA champion Mike George to injure him during a title match in Kansas City, Missouri. Talk about paranoia! If Adams worried more about George and less about Taylor, *he* might be WWA champion right now. Instead, Adams has a broken nose and is more bitter than ever. Adams has absolutely no proof that Taylor hired George. Although Taylor is certainly *not* a man of integrity, these false accusations are uncalled for.



Thumbs Down to Ernest Angel. How we hate him! Or perhaps "pity" is the proper word. The Bible says that we shouldn't hate our fellow man, but Brother Ernest, as he likes to be called, certainly tests us to the limit. How dare he parade around like a preacher and ask people to send him money. How dare he hit people with his "good book." The Constitution of the United States calls for separation of church and state; the wrestling constitution should call for separation of church and ring. Angel's no preacher! Angel's no lover of God! He's nothing but a fraud, headed straight for purgatory! □



THE Wrestler

Don't miss a single issue of the magazine that has thrilled wrestling fans for two generations, **THE WRESTLER**. Complete your collection of the most respected wrestling publication in the world today. Supplies are limited. Don't delay—order today!

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

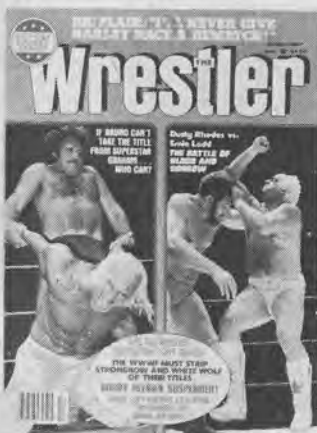
February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.



OCTOBER 1977

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

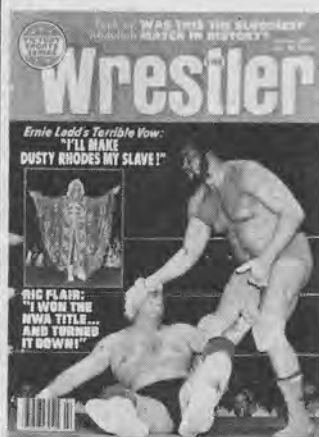
November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grahams, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.



FEBRUARY 1979

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Graham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

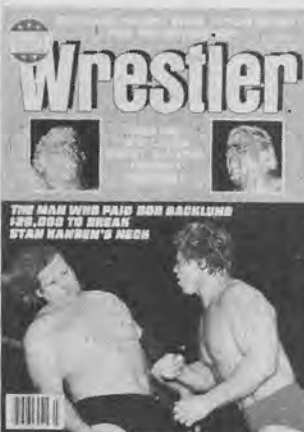
January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samcans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.



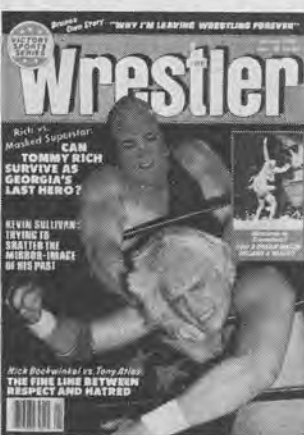
JULY 1981

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.



JANUARY 1982

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

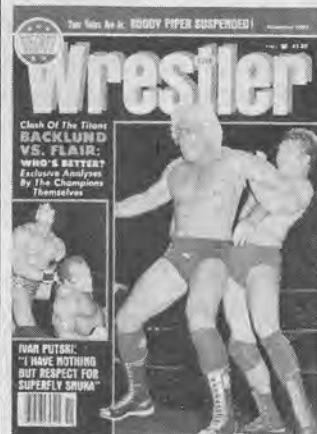
June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.



NOVEMBER 1982

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

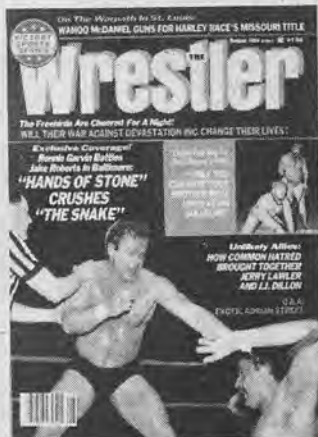
July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

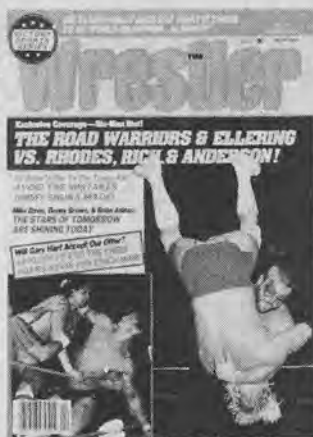
October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.
December 1983/Stories include: Mas-caras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.
January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.
April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Eller-ing, Von Erich, Rhodes.
May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.
June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.
July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.



AUGUST 1984

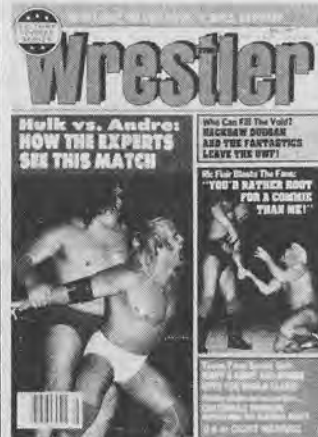
August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.
September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.
October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.
November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.
December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.
January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.
February 1985/Stories include: War-riors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.
March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.



APRIL 1985

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.
May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.
June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.
July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.
August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.
September 1985/Stories include: Ho-gan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.
October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.
November 1985/Stories include: Ho-gan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.
December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.
February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.
March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.
April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.
May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.
June 1986/Stories include: Luger, Her-nandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

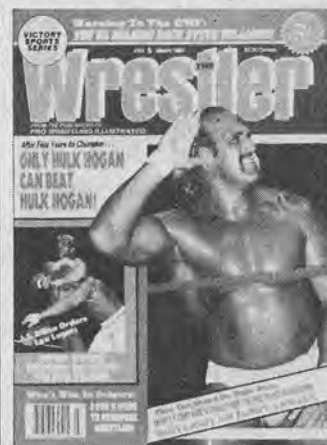
July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.
August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.
September 1986/Stories include: Fan-tastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.
October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.
November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.
December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.
January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.
February 1987/Stories include: Mag-num T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.
March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.
April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.



MAY 1987

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.
June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.
July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.
August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.
September 1987/Stories include: Ko-loffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.
October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Wil-liams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.
December 1987/Stories include: Ho-gan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.
January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.
February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.



MARCH 1988

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.
April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.
May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.
June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.
July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

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INTRODUCING RICKY RICE

"DON'T ASK ME to explain it," shrugs Ricky Rice, "I've been blessed with good jumping ability. The ways things have been going, I feel really fortunate. I guess I'm just lucky."

Rice's true luck is that he doesn't have to face himself in the ring. This handsome young star has surprised wrestling observers by defeating the majority of his opponents during his rookie foray in the AWA. Rice boasts a unique blend of science, speed, and maturity that has enabled him to amass an impressive won-loss record—and crack the AWA top 10 after only six months in the federation!

Though only a pro for less than a year, he already ranks among the small group of active competitors who are experts in a maneuver that is becoming a lost art—the flying dropkick. Many critics claim his version is the best they've seen in the federation since Jim Brunzell's in the early '70s.

Rice can credit much of his success to his amazing execution of the dropkick. It is a thing of rare beauty to watch. Rice takes no running start; he doesn't even need a stutter-step. He simply leaps straight up, flattening his body into a horizontal position as he moves



through the air. The strength in his well-developed legs yields unsurpassed power and accuracy.

"My God, he hit me right in the mouth with that thing!" marveled one AWA preliminary wrestler after being defeated by Rice in less than three minutes during a recent card at The Showboat Sports Pavilion in Las Vegas. "I knew I was finished right then. When I finally managed to get up, he did it *again*. That second dropkick snapped my head back so fast,

I thought it would come off my shoulders!"

Rice has captured the imagination of AWA fans with his considerable scientific talents, and he's done it the old-fashioned way: by working at it. Like the scientific wrestlers of years past, he sports no fancy ring jacket, mascot, or valet. He simply steps in the ring and lets his ability do the talking.

"That's just the way I was brought up," said Rice, a 6'1", 230-pound native of Edina, Min-

(Continued on page 20)

Despite rumors to the contrary, aerial skills are alive and well in the AWA—thanks to the emergence of young Ricky Rice, who soars over more experienced competition with unmatched grace. Rice has already set his sights on the AWA's highest plateau: Curt Hennig's World title!

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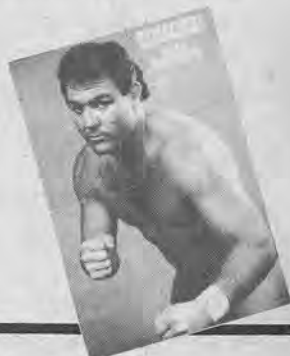


PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED (Published Monthly)

The acknowledged leader in wrestling journalism, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is packed with exciting stories and action photos. Each issue brings you all the latest news of the wrestling world, and the annual "Year-End Awards Issue" provides a unique and incisive view of the past 12 months, plus a chance for you to voice your opinions on the year's top wrestlers and achievements in our special fan poll.

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

nesota. "That's really my true personality. I can get down and dirty if I have to, but I prefer to wrestle clean. I'm absolutely committed to scientific wrestling. I'm a pretty nice guy if you get to know me—unless you get me riled up!"

Rice is the latest example of a multisport amateur athlete who chose wrestling as the route in which to make his mark in the sports world. He was a soccer, football, and hockey standout at Edina High School, but wrestled only sparingly as an amateur.

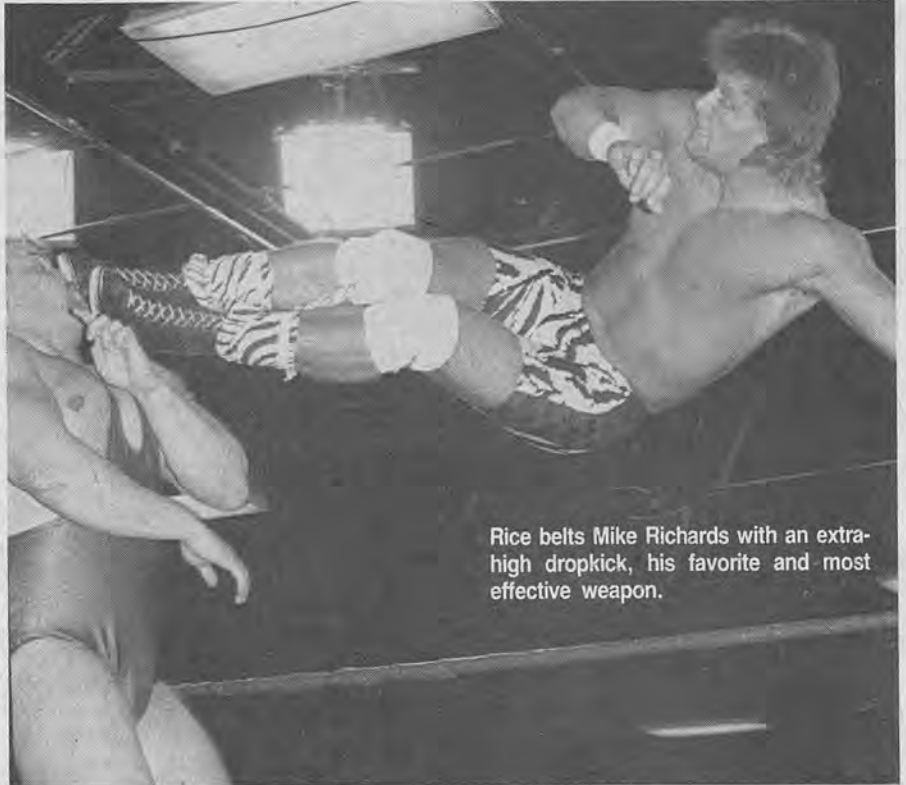
"I really wasn't into it too seriously at that point," recalled Rice. "I was trying to become the best hockey player I could be."

In addition to starring for his high school and college hockey teams, Rice played junior hockey in Des Moines, Iowa, for two years, and was examined closely by several National Hockey League scouts. It was during his *football* sessions, however, that he considered becoming a wrestler.

"I started hitting the weights pretty good," he said. "As my body grew and matured, I figured I might want to contact some people and see if I could get into wrestling. I certainly was big enough for it."

Luckily for Rice, the person he contacted was Brad Rheingans, a former member of the United States Olympic team who operates a pro wrestling camp in Minnesota. For Rheingans, who has trained several of today's top stars in addition to being a pro in his own right, Rice's first day at camp was like love at first sight.

"We ran through some preliminary drills, and naturally Ricky was raw and unpol-



Rice belts Mike Richards with an extra-high dropkick, his favorite and most effective weapon.

ished," recalled Rheingans. "Then I asked him to try throwing a dropkick at his sparring partner. Well, the guy was nearly decapitated by the highest dropkick I've ever seen a rookie deliver. Ricky got up six feet in the air! Right then, I knew I had an incredible prospect on my hands. As for his opponent—well, he just walked from the ring and quit the camp right then and there."

Rheingans placed Rice in matches in several independent promotions before allowing him to enter a major federation, but now he feels that the local kid he trained has blossomed into a legitimate contender for the AWA World title.

"Most young wrestlers take a long time, sometimes years, to develop into contenders," said Rheingans. "But Ricky is different. He's ready for [Curt] Hennig right now. If Hennig gets hit with even *one* of those dropkicks, we'll see a new champion. I guarantee it."

"The dropkick is getting higher and stronger," said Rice, who seems genuinely surprised by the attention he's received. "It seems to be a natural ability I have. But I don't want people to think that's all I can do. If you can name a wrestling hold, I can do it—and do it *well*, thanks to Brad."

Despite his hot start, Rice will need many more matches to become a legitimate title threat. All he's looking for now, he insists, is a chance.

"It's true that I'm a no-frills kind of guy," Rice said with a smile. "It doesn't bother me when people call me that. I may not be as flashy as a lot of the other wrestlers today, but I'd be willing to bet that I can beat most of them. I'm proud to be competing in the AWA. All I need now is the opportunity to prove to the world that this is one rookie who's ready to defeat the best this sport has to offer—and that *definitely* includes Hennig." □

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(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

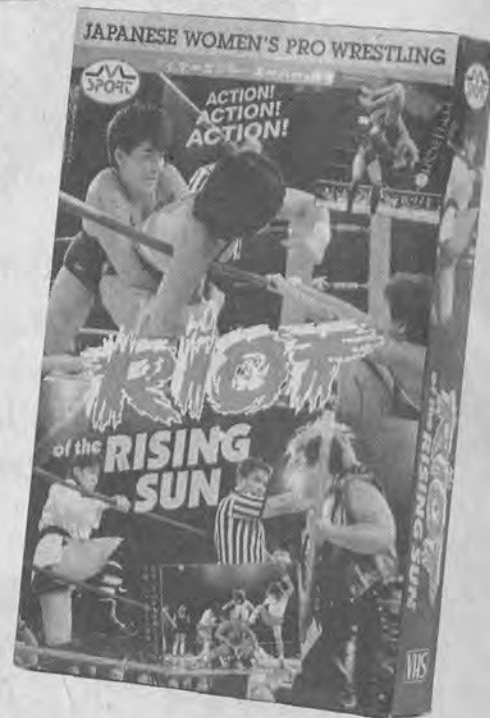
- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
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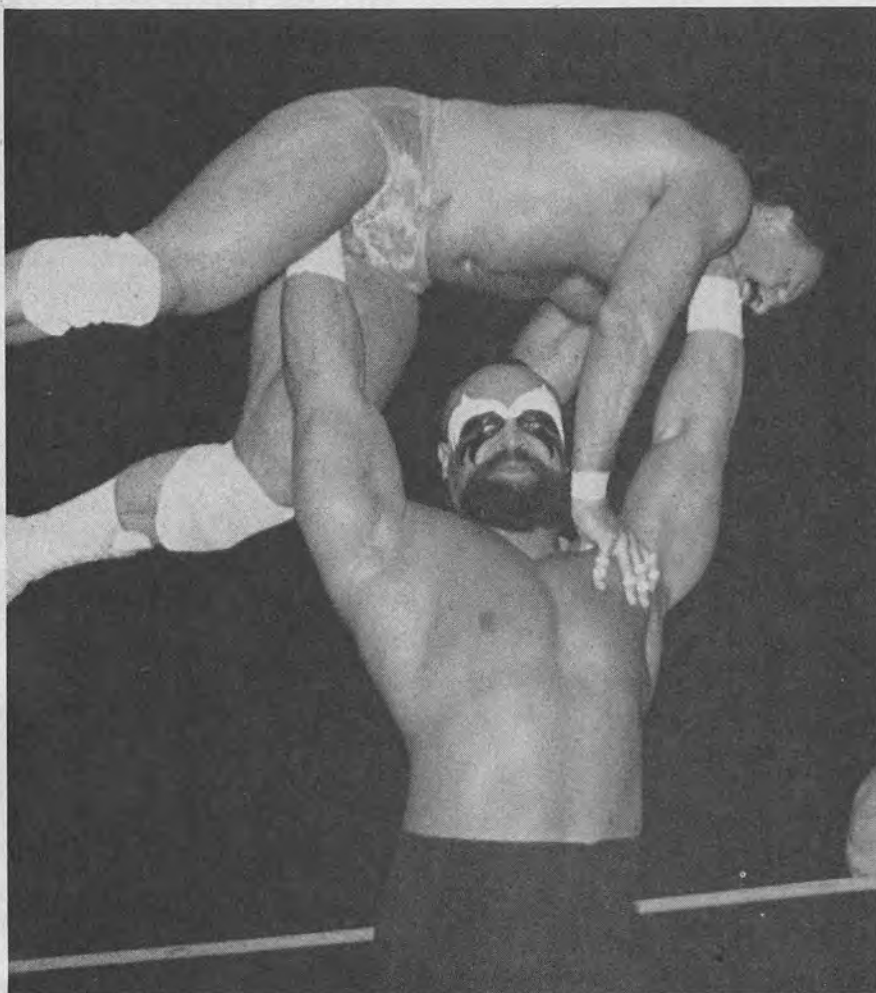


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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



The Barbarian presses Paul Ellering overhead. Despite being handled like that, Ellering doesn't think The Powers of Pain compare with The Road Warriors.

Q: Paul, I've got to say that no one in our offices expected Animal to make such a quick and successful return after one of the worst injuries I've seen in years. The Road Warriors are certainly a long way from being finished, and Jones is fit to be tied because of it.

A: Right you are, Apter. You know, Paul Jones would go on TV after Animal was injured and brag about how Barbarian and Warlord had ended Animal's career, then went on and on about how he would never come back. What a joke! For a while there, it was kind of touch and go for Animal, at least as far as the sight in the one eye was concerned, but it would take about 10 times as much punishment for Animal to even *consider* quitting. The Legion of Doom is not about to shrivel up and blow away after one bad break. We're now taking our frustrations out on the heads of Jones and his toads, and all this is overdue for these slimeballs. We're going to end their careers, and if one of them ends up with an eye punched out or a leg screwed off as a bonus, too bad. They asked for what they are getting. It's not nice to fool with The Legion of Doom!

Q: Most of the attention since the attack in Greensboro has centered on Animal, but I've noticed that Hawk has become much more aggressive since his brother was hurt.



PAUL ELLERING

MANY WRESTLERS CLAIM to be experts on weightlifting, but "Precious" Paul Ellering is one of the few who is an acknowledged master in the field. Ellering set a world record in the deadlift with a mark of 745.3 pounds in 1976. So when Paul Jones and his Powers of Pain—Warlord and Barbarian—challenged The Road Warriors—Animal and Hawk—to a weightlifting contest on January 30 in Greensboro, North Carolina, Ellering figured his expertise would ensure an easy \$50,000 payoff.

What Ellering didn't count on was the savage ambush planned by Jones. As Ivan Koloff blinded Hawk by throwing chalk powder in his eyes, Warlord grabbed Animal and smashed his head into the weights, crushing the orbital socket around his left eye. Animal's injury required delicate reconstructive surgery, but he returned to the ring less than two months later, thanks in part to the rehabilitation masterminded by Ellering. Currently, The Road Warriors continue to exact revenge from Warlord, Barbarian, and Koloff, all while setting their sights on the NWA World and U.S. tag team championships. Many fans feel the Warriors are long overdue for a title.

Ellering talked about his plans for the remainder of 1988 with Senior Editor Bill Apter at an exclusive Los Angeles health club.



Ellering clamps the sleeper on managerial rival Paul Jones, who orchestrated the attack that left Animal with a badly injured eye and a powerful thirst for revenge.

He seems like a man possessed during his matches.

A: Very astute, very observant. To tell you the truth, I've had trouble containing Hawk since that time, not that I would want to. He's been going at his workouts like a madman, and he's added to his overall musculature. But that's minor compared to the killer instinct

he's showing lately. Every time he gets in the ring with any of Jones' men, he's out to ruin them. Naturally, I think all of this is just fine. His actions against The Powers of Pain will send a clear message to the rest of the world that we are not to be trifled with.

Q: Your feud with them aside, even you have to admit that Warlord

and Barbarian match up very closely with Hawk and Animal in size and strength.

A: That's bunk. Warlord and Barbarian actually stand a bit taller and they weigh much more—they're about 655 and we're 562. I'd be lying if I didn't admit they were bigger. But it takes more than size and weight training to beat The Road Warriors. It takes guts—*inner* strength—something those gutter denizens lack. You know, when I unleashed Hawk and Animal upon the wrestling world back in 1983, everybody said that they had never seen anything like them. What happens when something new and exciting happens in any sport? Everybody tries to copy it, that's what. Over the last few years, we've seen all kinds of teams that try to look, sound, and wrestle like the mighty Road Warriors, but they've all been pale imitations. It takes more than a coat of paint and bulging muscles to defeat these two incredible men, and that's why Jones and his jackals can try anything in their power. Nothing will work. Invincibility is still our middle name.

Q: Granted, The Road Warriors have rekindled their competitive spark since Animal's return, but many people think the Warriors are not the same team they once were . . .

A: Apter, how many times do you and your magazines have to ask

this same question? You're starting to sound like a broken record.

Q: I understand your feelings, Paul, but please try to realize that most of my questions are just repeating what the fans ask *me*. Many people wonder why it's been so long since you've captured a major title. It's been almost three years since you held the AWA tag team championship.

A: First of all, we do exactly what we want to at all times. We get more pleasure out of pounding the tar out of people like Jones, or James J. Dillon, than we do lugging around a couple of metal straps. Second, everyone forgets that we are *still* the All-Japan International tag team champions. That's not a major title? We consider Japanese wrestling to be the standard the rest of the world goes by, and everyone over there is scared to death of us. We dominate in Japan like no team before or since. But it *does* bother me that people think we may have lost something. It's so far from the truth. We're stronger and tighter than we've ever been.

Q: Do you think the perception would change if you gained an American title? Many fans think in terms such as "no belt, no good."

A: Absolutely. That's why we're going to win the NWA World title *and* the U.S. championship, just to show off.

Q: Obviously, you mean you'll win these titles at different times.

A: Absolutely not. There's no reason why we can't hold these titles at the same time. Despite opinions to the contrary, we are The Legion of Doom, and we are out to annihilate any team that dares get in our way. This is a clear warning to Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express, and also to Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson: We are out for your titles, gentlemen. You may do what you want to try to avoid us, but I want it known to the match-makers throughout the NWA that we are actively seeking title bouts. There's really no excuse for our lack of a title. We just haven't been all that interested lately.

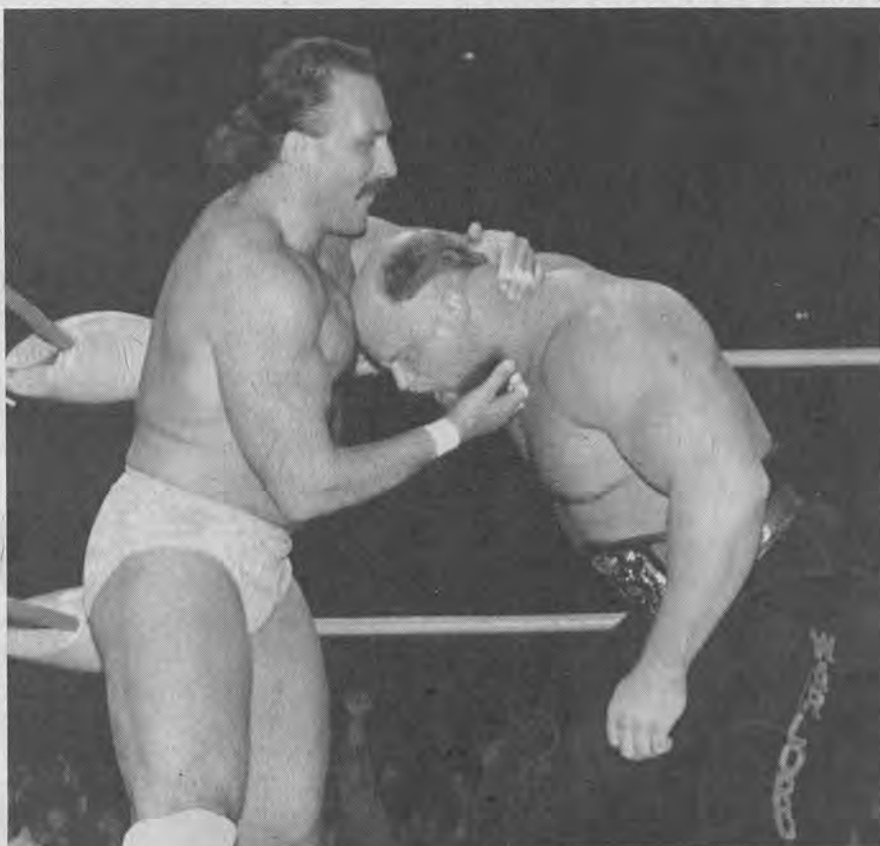
Q: How do you feel about the teams that currently are competing in the NWA? Who poses the biggest

threat to The Road Warriors?

A: Well, we're taking the life out of the Powers of Pain match by match, so they will be only a faint memory by the time this interview hits the newsstands. We've had our share of run-ins with Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, too. Is there actually anybody out there who truly believes that The Midnight Express has a prayer against us? As for Blanchard and Anderson, they are



Ellering collars The Warlord (left). Jones throws Ellering back in the ring (above). The two managers have battled it out themselves to prove which team is superior.



part of the biggest backstabbing organization ever. We're going to make sure they get what's coming to them.

Q: Is there anybody else who you are interested in meeting?

A: I don't think anyone could defeat us, but there are a few interesting possibilities. As strange as this might sound, I would like to match up with The Jive Tones again. Now, *there* is an example of an underrated team. A lot of guys have bigger muscles and are much louder during interviews, but the fact of the matter is they've been

very committed to forming an excellent tag team. They're not in our caliber, naturally, and we'd pin them both in under a minute, but you have to give [Shaska] Whatley and [Tiger] Conway credit for *trying* to become contenders. You have to admire that. At least I do.

Q: Although Hawk and Animal once held the six-man title with Dusty Rhodes and have teamed with a few others, you still essentially prefer to keep to yourselves, don't you? There aren't many people you work with regularly.

A: If you remember, when I first formed what later would be known as The Legion of Doom, I also managed several other wrestlers. But once I saw the inherent greatness in these two invincible wrestlers, I knew right then it was futile to waste my time with any others. We don't *need* anybody else. We are the greatest team the sport has ever seen, and we will continue to prove our dominance until we decide it is time to move on to other endeavors.

Q: You've been pretty much confined to managing the careers of The Road Warriors for the past several years, despite your recent ring appearances. Are you happy with the way things worked out for Paul Ellering?

A: Happy is not the word for it. Vindicated and satisfied are much better terms. When I knew my full-time wrestling days were coming to an end, it was like a gift from the gods that these two magnificent wrestlers became part of my life. You see, I realize that I am helping to write a major portion of the history of professional wrestling in the 1980s, 1990s, and beyond. I am the manager of The Road Warriors, the finest team ever to step foot in the squared circle, the team that redefined the terms by which all future teams will be measured. We've proven this against all competition in every federation we've competed in. What else could a manager need? ☐

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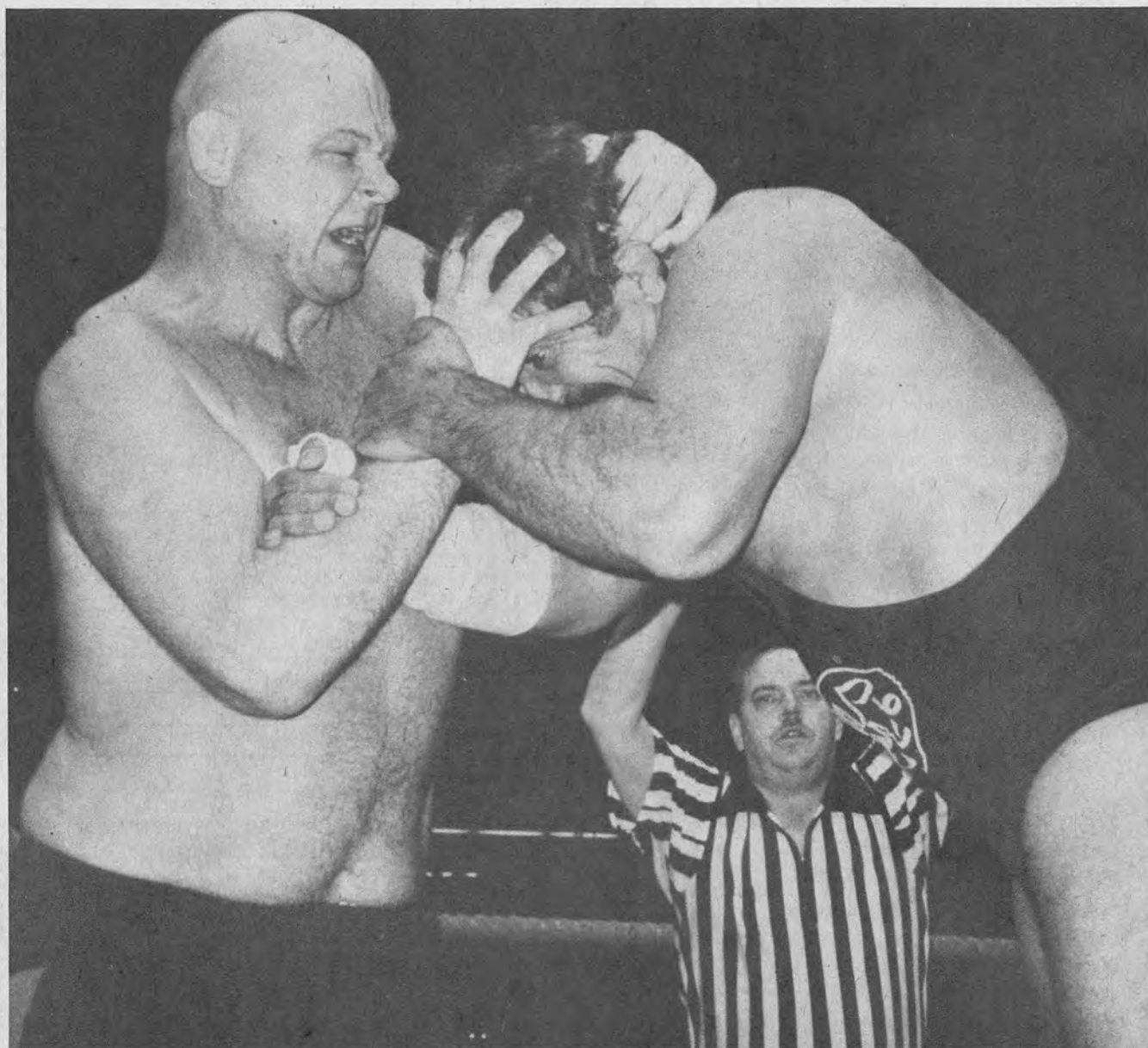
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



**BARON VON
RASCHKE**

Each month
THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts
will offer their candid opinions of one
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming
youngster or an established superstar in his own right,
our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Baron Von Raschke puts his famous clawhold on Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. Although he's been wrestling for a long time, the crafty German veteran remains a top contender in the AWA, and has even beaten World champ Curt Hennig in a non-title match.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"Lemme tell ya, daddy, when Herr Baron was in the WWF in the '70s, he was just about the most feared man around. He was meaner, younger, meaner, stronger, and meaner, and his clawhold bloodied up his opponents so bad they had to censor his TV matches. He was Fred Blassie's boy, but I'm glad to see he changed his ways and came over to the good side, just like the Captain, daddy. He may be a little older, but he's middle-aged and crazy—just like me!"

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"I know he's a big hero to the fans, but I've always admired Von Raschke. I've always believed that the best wrestlers are the ones that manage to stay around for years as contenders, just like I did, and nobody has more experience than the Baron. When you get this guy riled up, there's not a man, woman, child, or vendor in the arena that's safe. He goes berserk, and he'll stoop to any level to hurt his opponent. That's the mark of true greatness."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"Von Raschke is not stable man. He is not clever like Japanese wrestlers in devising a smart plan to do away with his opponents. He rely on clawhold too much. If he don't use claw, he not win. And he is too elderly to be serious threat to anyone. I still wrestle because I improve every day. Von Raschke is risking heart attack by staying in sport. He should be put in what you Americans call nursing home, where he can get hot German food and bedrest."

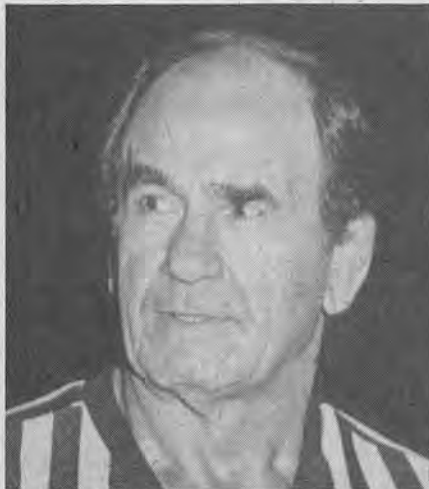
Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



LARRY HENNIG

"At first I was happy to join the 'X-Ray' panel, but it seems like you guys keep trying to make me angry. In June, I had to waste my breath talking about that world champ of anorexia, Greg Gagne. Now, you want to know how I feel about that fossilized old Kraut after he cheated to beat my boy Curt, the AWA World champ, in a non-title match? Naw, you bums don't deserve it. If you want my opinion so bad, you'd better critique some *real* wrestlers, or I quit."

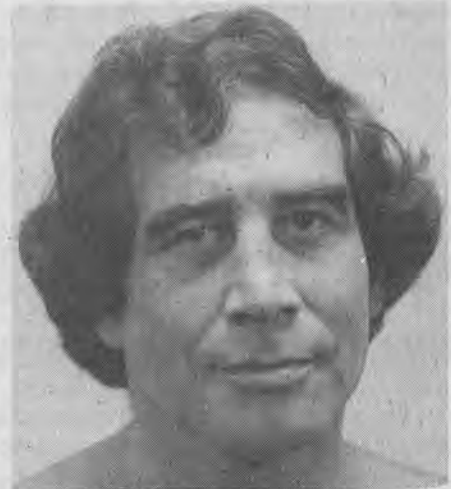
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"Von Raschke reminds me of myself in that he continued to compete long after people assumed he'd be better off retired. All that matters is results. He's still a top-10 contender in a major wrestling federation, and he still gives today's young gym rats a run for their money. People like to verbally abuse men like Von Raschke, Harley Race, and Dory Funk Jr., but even though they're veterans, they're all still potential world champions."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"I wrestled him when I was a rookie, and I'm man enough to admit he hurt me bad. Since then, he's not only lost a step, he's lost *several*. He's too slow to be considered a realistic contender for the AWA title, and he has no concept of scientific wrestling. This isn't bitterness talking, since I became friends with Baron several years ago. This brave veteran is working on borrowed time, and I'd hate to see his career end with a crippling injury."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.



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**Look
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Leap**

1987 Rookie of the Year Owen Hart is one of the finest young talents in wrestling, but he is headed for disaster if he decides to team with his brother Bret. Just ask their parents

OWEN HART MUST STEER CLEAR OF HIS BROTHER BRET

STU AND HELEN Hart have made their contribution to wrestling. Their six sons, Keith, Smith, Bruce, Steve, Bret, and Owen, all grew up to become professional wrestlers—in the case of several of them, *outstanding* professional wrestlers. While they all chose the same profession, they did *not* choose the same approach to the ring.

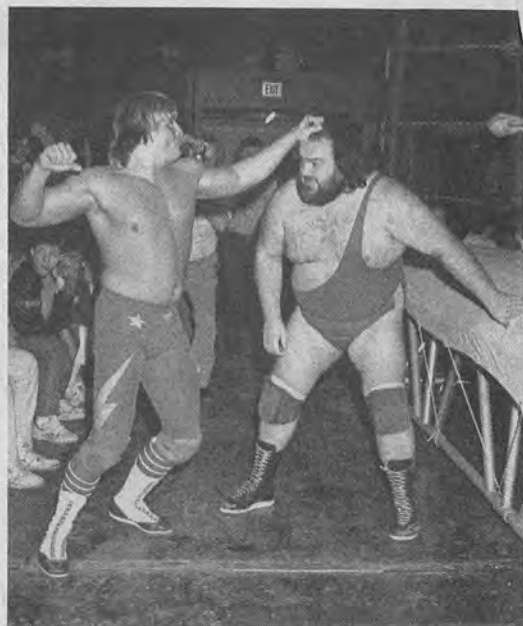


"Stu and I are always talking about how differently the children turned out," Helen said while paging through the Hart family album. She paused for a moment to glance at a snapshot of Bret dunking his younger brother Owen's head into a puddle of mud. "That was taken while they were away at summer camp. Owen was voted 'Best Camper.' Bret, that little devil, had those counselors going absolutely crazy."

She continued to page through the album and then turned to her husband. "Don't you think, honey, that Bret was always the biggest troublemaker of all the children?" she asked. "I can't remember a day when Bret wasn't getting into trouble with his teachers or the other boys at school. Owen was always the littlest angel, and he hasn't changed at all."

Stu leaned back in his rocking chair and put the tip of his finger to his forehead, reaching far back into his memory to remember when Owen and Bret were just Stu and Helen Hart's little boys. He got up from his chair, hiked his pants, paced back and forth across the room, and finally spoke.

"Yep, I'd say that Bret was always the biggest troublemaker," Stu said. "You know, Bret always wanted to be a wrestler, just like his

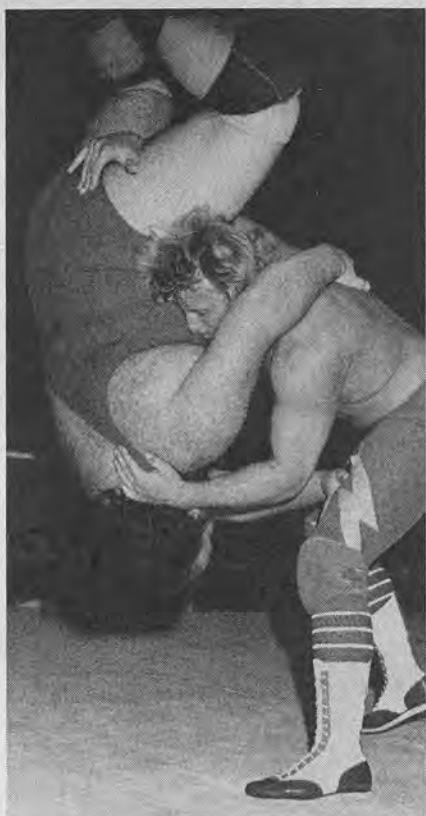


Bret Hart pulls Jim Brunzell's hair (top left). Owen Hart slugs Makhan Singh (above) and flies at him from the turnbuckle (left). Though both men are outstanding wrestlers, the Hart brothers differ in many respects. Owen prefers to play by the rules, while Bret often takes shortcuts.

daddy, but sometimes he just took it a little too far. I remember saying to Helen one day, 'Honey, when that kid gets older, he's gonna be the worst rulebreaker you ever saw. He's just got it in him.' Helen said that wasn't true, but I could also tell that somewhere inside she knew I was right."

"Now Owen, on the other hand, was a different story," Stu continued. "He never caused much trouble to anyone, although he'd occasionally get into a mess like kids do, but a lot of times it was also because of Bret. Now Bret was a real devil, just like Helen said, but he'd occasionally put on this sweet face and act like nothing was wrong. That's when he'd rope in Owen, and Owen, who never suspected anybody in his life, was always easy prey. Then Owen would get into trouble."

Helen opened another photo album to a page that showed Owen in his finest clothes posing for a school photo. Nearly imperceptible is a young boy in the background sneaking up behind Owen with a



pail of water. "That would be Bret. We keep this photo for laughs," Helen explained, "because a few seconds after that photo was taken, that pail of water went right over Owen's head. Me and Stu just said, 'Well, that's Bret,' but the headmaster of the school gave Bret quite a scolding."

Stu and Helen started to laugh. Events that happened in the past seem so harmless when looked at many years later, and these family reminiscences are certainly amusing. But when viewed in light of what has happened professionally to Owen and Bret Hart, they take on new meaning; when viewed in light of what may soon happen, they're even more important.

And dangerous.

Owen, who was 1987's Rookie of the Year, who has been Stampede North American champion since April 10, 1987, and who is one of the finest young scientific aerial artists in the sport, recently told a shocked group of reporters that he would consider teaming with Bret if his brother dumped Hart Foundation teammate Jim Neidhart. No one seriously considered this to be



Owen slams Singh (left) and executes a sunset flip on him (above). Bret and Hart Foundation partner Jim Neidhart double-team Dynamite Kid (bottom). Many feel that if the Hart brothers ever teamed up, Owen's career would be irreparably harmed.

a possibility ... until WrestleMania IV.

Bret Hart and Bad News Brown, both rulebreakers, were the last two men remaining in the March 27 battle royal. They appeared willing to split the \$25,000 first prize when Bad News viciously attacked Bret from behind and dumped him over the top rope. With the fans cheering him, Bret smashed the battle royal trophy to pieces, and a new feud was born ... or at least renewed. Bret (then a fan favorite)

and Brown (then known as Bad News Allen) battled for nearly two years in Calgary during the early 1980s.

Since March, Bret has concentrated on his rivalry with Brown while teaming less frequently with Neidhart. A talented veteran with the ability to wrestle scientifically or brawl violently, Bret seems to enjoy the cheers of the fans, and rumors have circulated that he has become disenchanted with Neidhart. A breakup appears imminent, which could lead to a new Hart Foundation consisting of Bret and Owen.

But can Owen trust Bret?

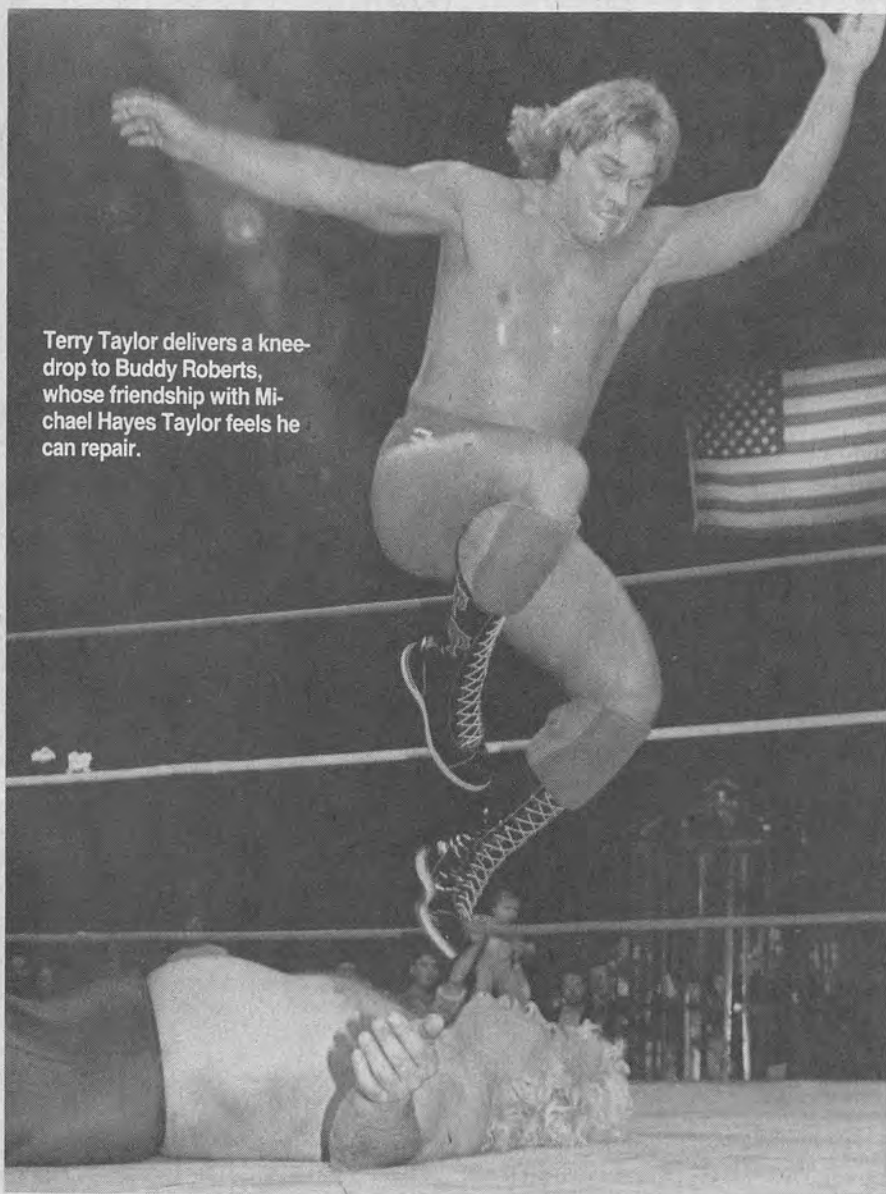
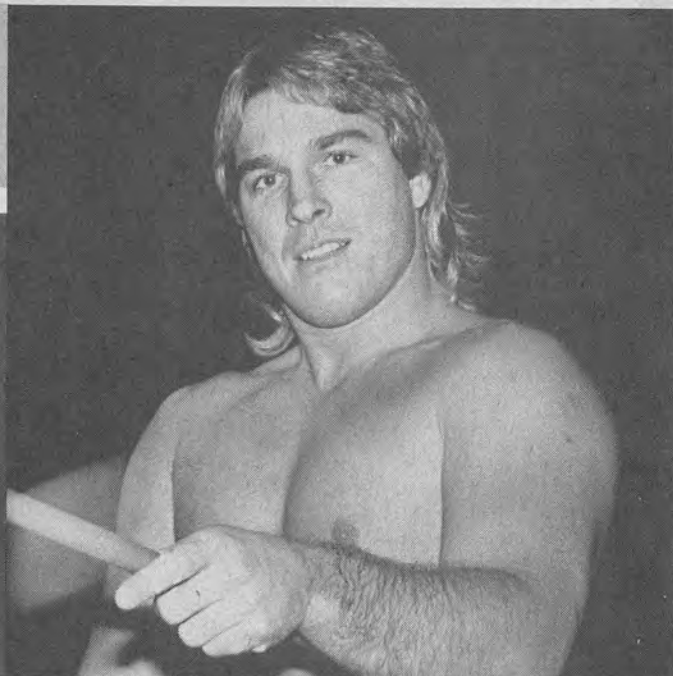
"I love my children, all of them," said Helen Hart, "but Bret's always been up to no good. Down deep, Bret's a good boy, but he's very mischievous. Bret can't help but get in a little trouble some of the time, and I'd be afraid that he'd bring Owen down with him. The fans really love Owen, and he has his own style. I love to see my children wrestle together, but in this case I'm not too sure."

Certainly, a mother knows best. The teaming of Owen and Bret Hart could mean trouble for Owen. One untrustworthy rulebreaker in a family is more than enough. Brotherly love may be a wonderful thing, but Owen would do best to avoid his brother—Neidhart or no Neidhart. □



TERRY TAYLOR:

**"I CAN
REUNITE THE
FREEBIRDS!"**

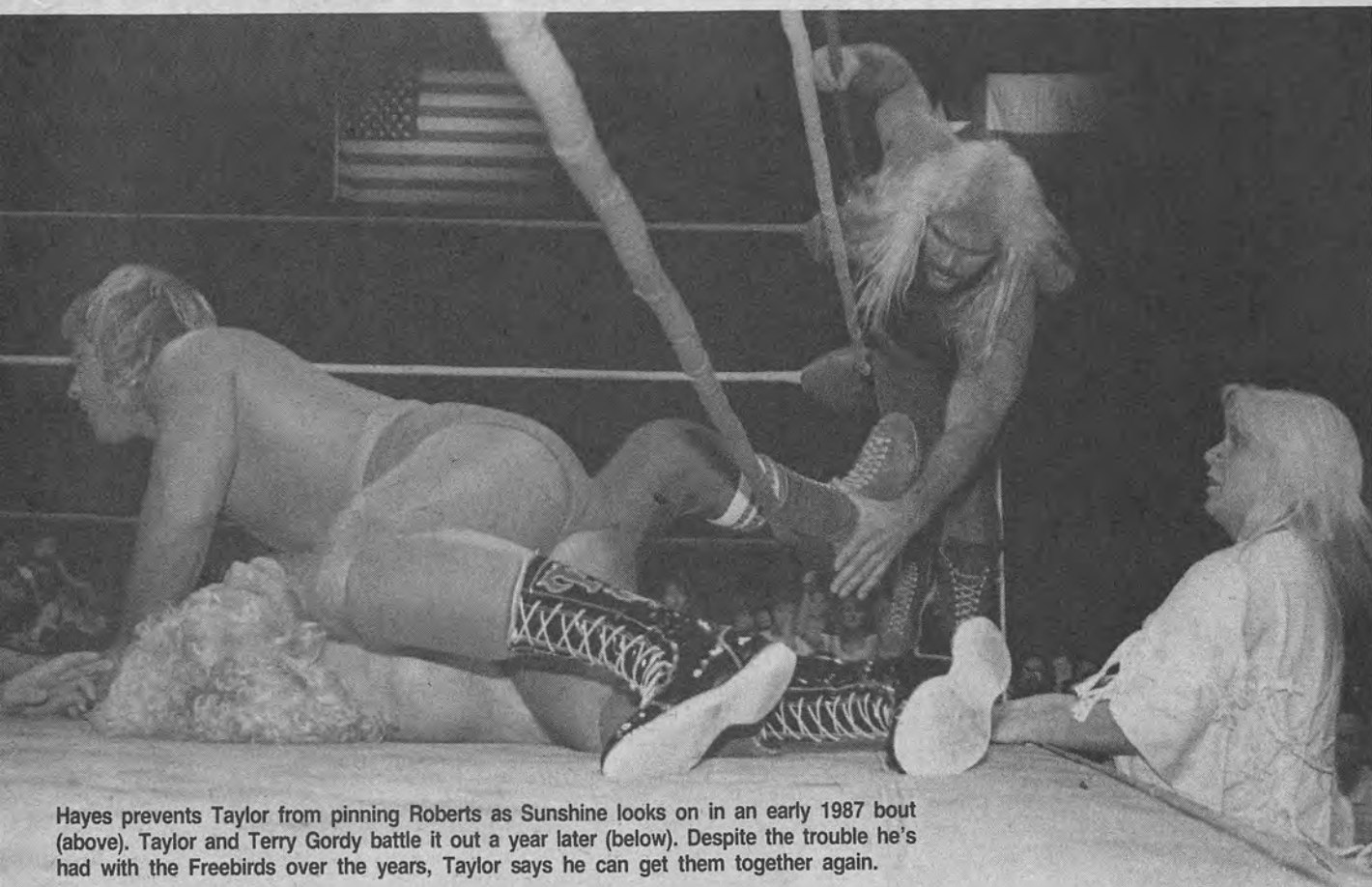


Terry Taylor delivers a knee-drop to Buddy Roberts, whose friendship with Michael Hayes Taylor feels he can repair.

Terry Taylor says he holds the secret to reuniting Buddy Roberts and Terry Gordy with Michael Hayes so that the trio known as The Fabulous Freebirds can be a team once again. Is Taylor sincere in his claim, or is he only trying to inflate his own reputation?

TERRY TAYLOR EASED back on the couch that divides the waiting room and main offices of World Class Championship Wrestling in Dallas. He casually picked lint off his wool sports coat, then rubbed dust off his patent-leather shoes.

This well-dressed, nonchalant man hardly resembled a wrestler who was about to pay a hefty fine—a development that captured the interest of two reporters who



Hayes prevents Taylor from pinning Roberts as Sunshine looks on in an early 1987 bout (above). Taylor and Terry Gordy battle it out a year later (below). Despite the trouble he's had with the Freebirds over the years, Taylor says he can get them together again.



were patiently waiting for officials to meet with this arrogant grappler.

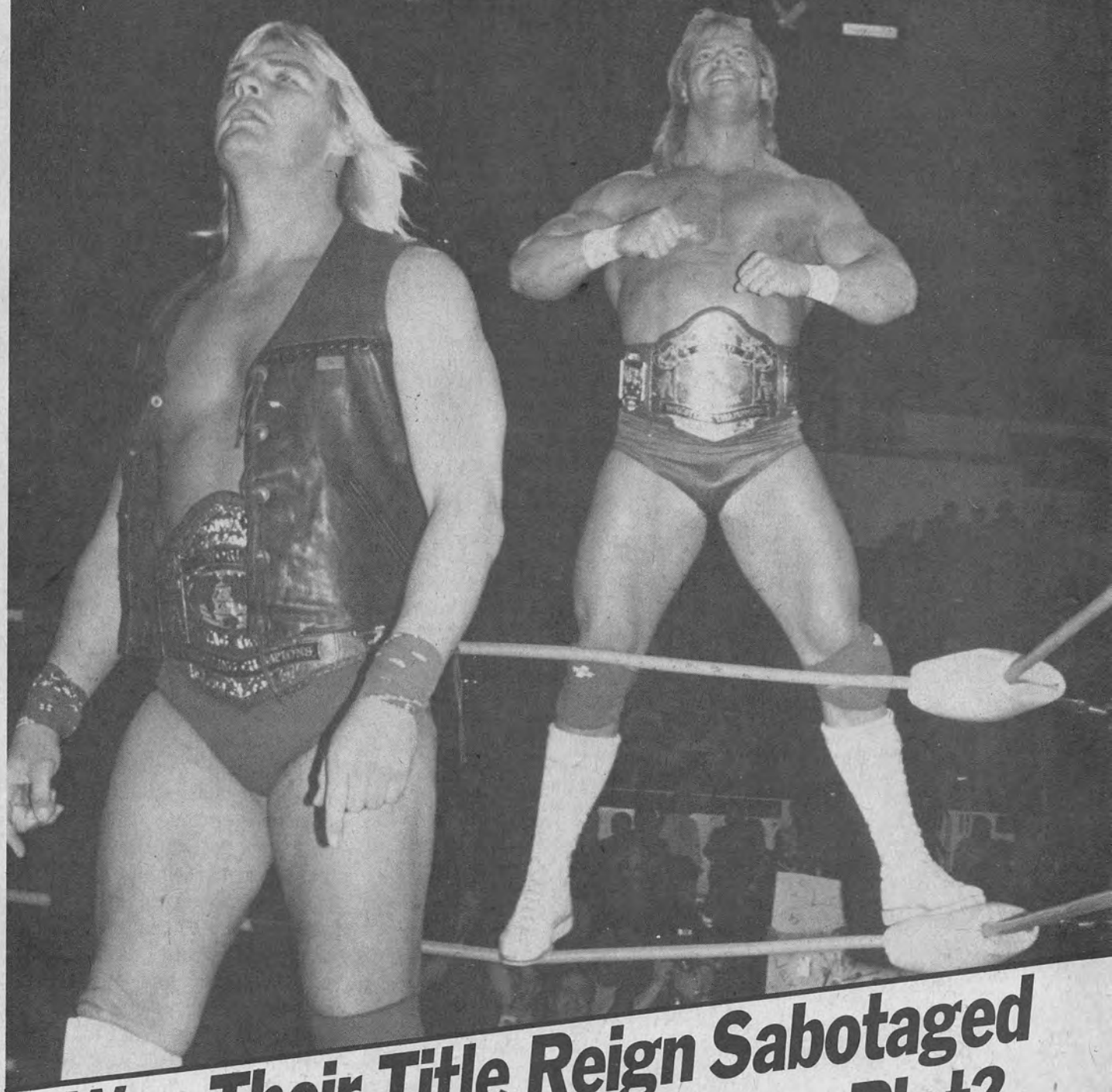
"Seems like I've been a little hard on some of these boys," Taylor laughed while thumbing through a dog-eared copy of *Field & Stream*. "It seems I 'utilize tactics in an unprofessional manner,' according to this letter I got yesterday. I thought Texas prided itself on having the toughest wrestling in the country, but I always get fined for defending myself. What idiots! One time I paid a \$1,000 fine in loose pennies just to get 'em even madder."

The latest incident to anger World Class officials was Taylor's conduct during a match with Terry "Bamm Bamm" Gordy, the largest of the remaining Fabulous Freebirds. Both wrestlers wielded chairs and ignored the instructions of the referee during the double-disqualification bout. To Taylor, this display of unsportsmanlike conduct was "just another match."

"Am I mad at Gordy?" Taylor

(Continued on page 54)

BARRY WINDHAM & LEX LUGER



**Was Their Title Reign Sabotaged
By A Horsemen-Windham Plot?**

WORLD TAG TITLE POWER SHIFT!

Barry Windham and Lex Luger were supposed to rid the NWA of The Four Horsemen, but Windham shocked the wrestling world by defecting to J.J. Dillon's camp. Who was behind Windham's startling action? Was it all an elaborate plot by Dillon, or was Luger's stardom too much for Windham to take?

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED to end this way. The title reign of Barry Windham and Lex Luger was far too short. So was their friendship.

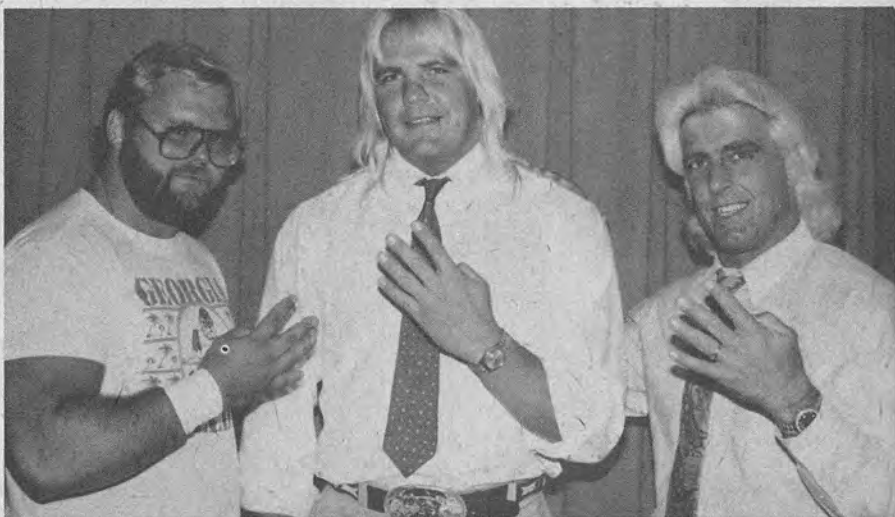
James J. Dillon wins again.

In just one night, Barry Windham turned against his best friend, joined wrestling's most notorious band of rulebreakers, and radically altered the balance of power in the NWA. His actions caused the premature end of a World tag team title reign that had the potential to last years. All that's left now are questions without clear answers—and fans who can't be consoled.

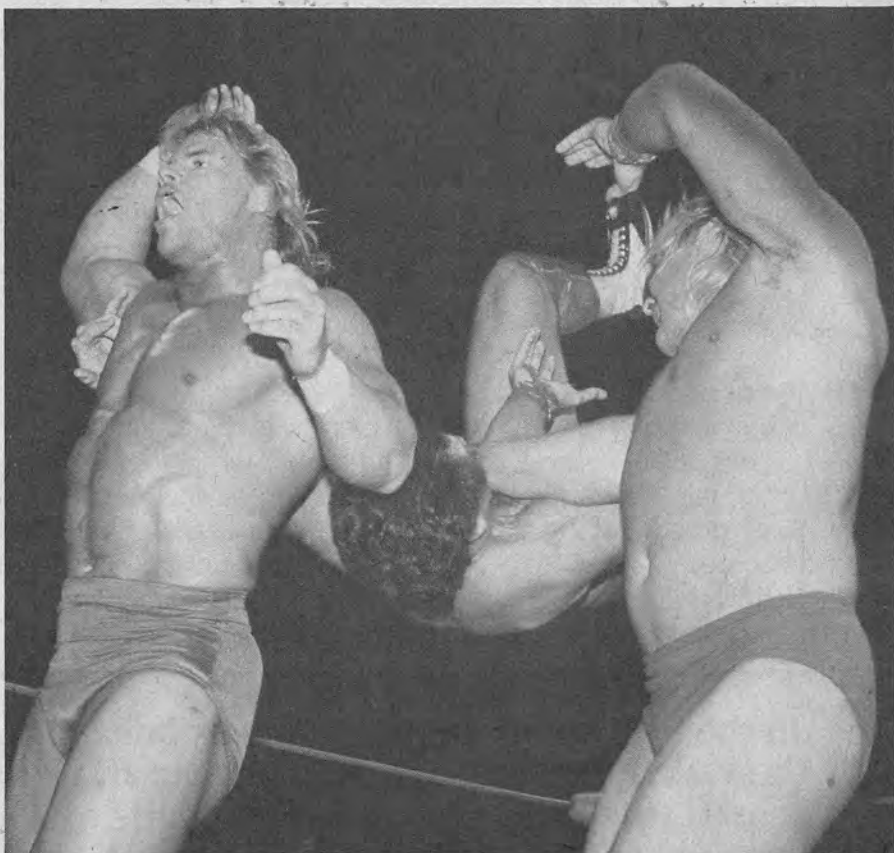
Windham stunned officials, admirers, and foes when he turned against Luger on April 20 in Jacksonville, Florida. Windham virtually gave the tag team title to Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson by attacking his partner and leaving him for dead. Even more shocking was the unfathomable, horrifying sight of Windham leaving the ring with Dillon as he held the four fingers of his right hand aloft—the symbol of the Horsemen. Dillon, who never stops looking for an advantage, had scored one of the biggest coups of his managerial career.

While fans around the country bemoan Windham's actions against Luger, many people close to the NWA and Dillon believe that Windham's explosion was not spontaneous. Indeed, Windham's double-cross smacks of a typical Horsemen plot.

The match was running smoothly
(Continued on page 48)



Barry Windham's decision to join The Four Horsemen (above) meant that he and Lex Luger would no longer combine their efforts against Tully Blanchard (below).



**WORLD TAG TITLE
POWER SHIFT!**

DEMOLITION



Mr. Fuji has shaped Demolition into a championship team, but his tactics are always in question. Matt Brock would argue that *everyone's* tactics should be in question.

By Matt Brock

LET ME STATE for the record that I was totally against the idea of doing this story in the first place. Some people just can't call a spade a spade; either that, or they're too liberal to realize that sometimes there *is* a right and a

wrong. There's a black and a white. Not everything has a gray area.

The guys who run this magazine—and I'm talking about those three bleeding hearts: Stu Saks, Bill Apter, and Craig Peters—can see things only one way. When a team like Strike Force uses illegal

double-teaming to perform a scientific maneuver, it's outstanding teamwork. When a team like Demolition uses double-teaming to punish an opponent, it's rulebreaking.

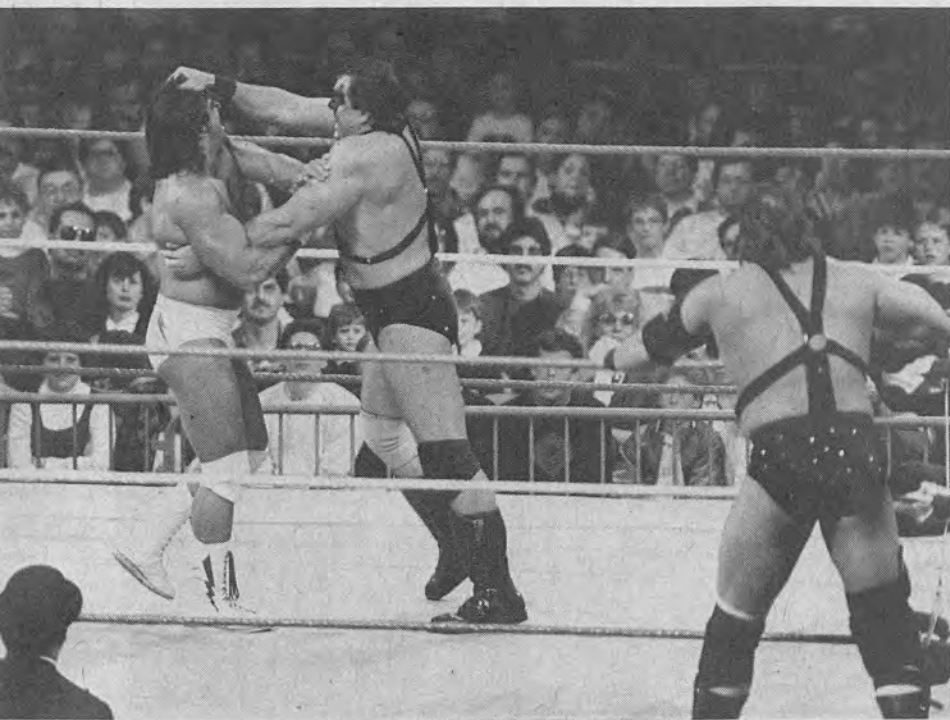
Well, I've got news for you, boys. Double-teaming is double-teaming and it's *always* against the rules. The funny thing is, all of these acrobatic tag teams like Strike Force, The Midnight Rockers, and The Fantastics use double-teaming in almost all of their matches, but the only one with the guts to say anything about it is Jesse Ventura, whom people call a rulebreaker's commentator, but is actually just a realist.

The whole point is that I knew something was up when Apter, Peters, and Saks decided to do this story. They pose the question, "Fluke champions or champions to stay?" but that just disguises their real intent. They pretend to study both sides of a question when they've had their minds made up all along. After all, who can argue with their conclusion when they've studied both sides of an issue "impartially"?

What they had in mind was this: an all-out attack on the rulebreaking style of Demolition; a defense of their beloved, scientific Strike Force; and the conclusion that Demolition, like The Honky Tonk Man, doesn't deserve the belts be-

In the beginning, Demolition was one of the worst tag teams in the WWF. But now, less than a year after their formation, these feared rulebreakers have risen to the top of the tag team heap. But can they stay there?

Fluke Champions Or Champions To Stay?



Action from WrestleMania IV: Ax pulls Rick Martel's hair (above), he and Smash double-team Tito Santana (top right), and Ax saves Smash from Martel's Boston crab (below). Demolition's World tag title victory over Strike Force won them new respect.



cause of the way they won them. Their question was answered before the headline was written.

Unfortunately for Saks, Apter, and Peters, that's not the way it's going to be.

I'm no lover of rulebreakers. I've been in this business for all of my adult life, and nobody appreciates an action-packed scientific match more than yours truly. But I hate hypocrisy, and the fact of the matter is that there's no such thing as a scientific wrestler anymore. They're *all* rulebreakers!

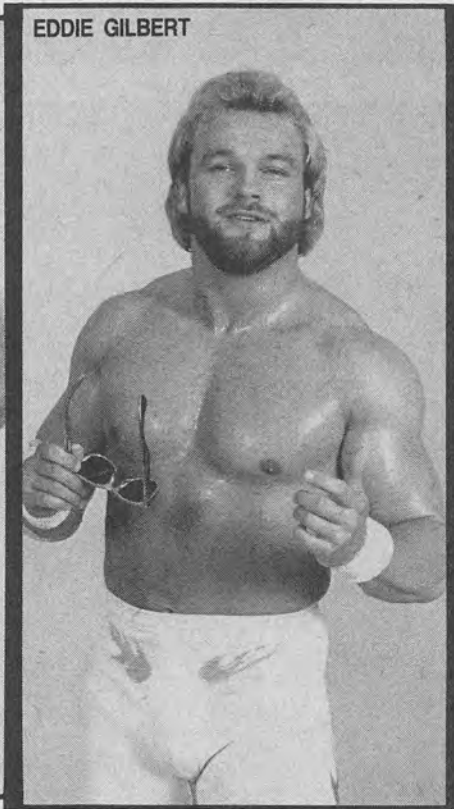
If you don't believe that, take a look at the tag team title match at WrestleMania IV in Atlantic City. It opened with a four-man brawl that was started when Tito Santana delivered a high dropkick on Smash to break up an early Demolition advantage. Then, several times, San-

(Continued on page 52)

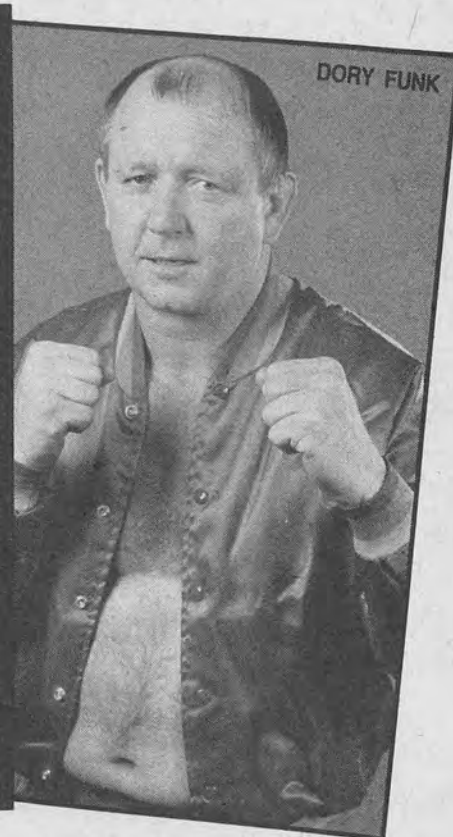
When Eddie Gilbert placed a \$25,000 bounty on the head of Jerry Lawler, the bounty hunters who invaded Memphis all had a piece of surprising news: They were ready, willing, and able to cripple Lawler—free of charge!



CURT HENNIG



EDDIE GILBERT



DORY FUNK

Keep Your Money, Gilbert!

“WE’LL DESTROY JERRY LAWLER FOR FUN!”

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND dollars is a lot of money. For that amount of cash, men have lied, cheated, embezzled, and even killed. For \$25,000, brothers have deceived brothers, husbands have

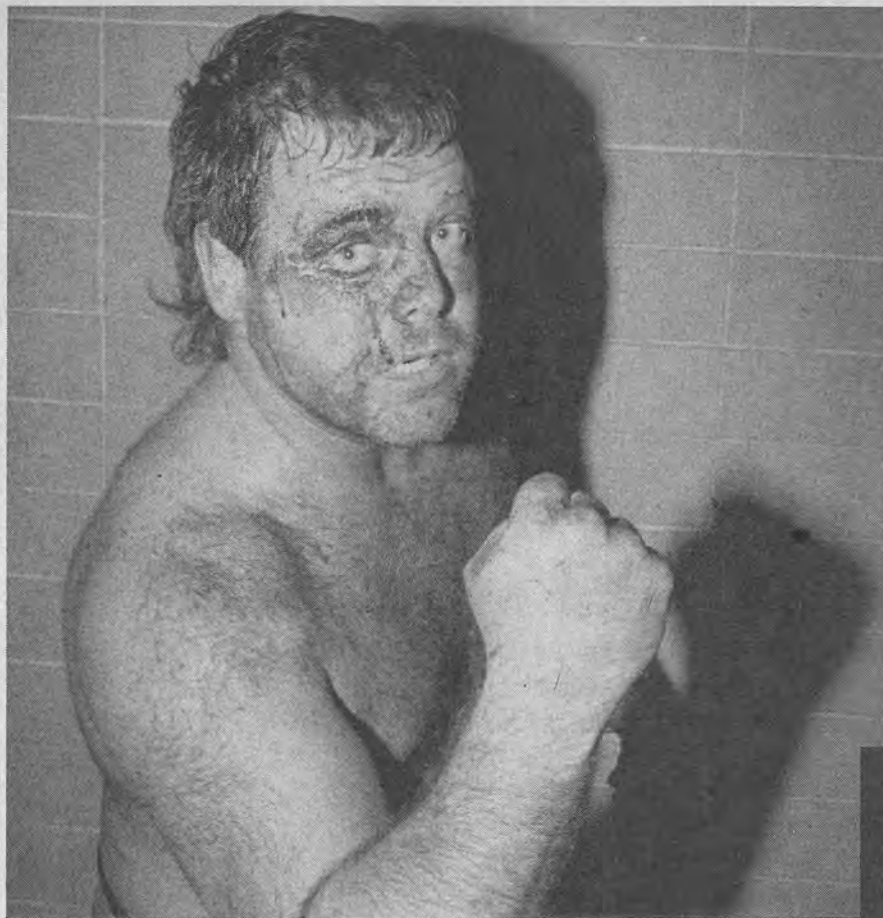
abandoned wives, and leaders have betrayed followers. People of unwavering morality have been driven to do the most atrocious deeds.

All for \$25,000.

It was hardly surprising, there-

fore, that wrestler after wrestler lined up to accept Eddie Gilbert's recent \$25,000 offer to cripple Jerry Lawler. The real surprise came later.

Nobody wanted the money.



Whatever happened to good, honest greed? Whatever happened to the days when a \$25,000 bounty could get even longtime friends to battle each other? Obviously for Gilbert and his loyal friends, greed is a thing of the past, having been completely obscured by an intense shared hatred for Jerry Lawler.

They'll put "The King" out of wrestling just for the fun of it.

Curt Hennig was the first to come forward, accept the challenge, and scorn the paycheck. "I don't need Gilbert's money," Hennig said, his face brimming with anger. "Lawler's a no-good punk whose mere presence in a ring causes me to become extremely violent."

"And violence toward Lawler," he said, cracking an evil smile, "is not something I like to keep locked up inside!"

Although no long-standing feud exists between the two, Hennig still harbors intense resentment toward Lawler—a determined challenger to the AWA throne—and his claims of

Jerry Lawler (above), enraged by Eddie Gilbert, has had to fight off a new challenge from Dory Funk, who catches him in a toe-hold (below). Lawler retaliates with a fireball (right).



royalty. Even without a title around his waist, Lawler refers to himself as "The King," a title that Hennig feels unnecessarily cheapens wrestling.

"I'll show that beltless bum what a *real* champ can do," Hennig continued. "I've got the title, not him. If *anyone* is 'The King,' it's me!"

By the time this issue went to press, however, Hennig had not succeeded in crippling his opponent. One match with Lawler ended in mayhem as Gilbert and CWF newcomer Scotty "The Body" rushed into the ring to attack Lawler. Gilbert succeeded in knocking out Lawler with chloroform, but "The King" soon returned to the ring.

The next bounty hunter was



Scotty "The Body." In accepting Gilbert's challenge, he also rejected the promise of financial reward, opting instead for something a little more interesting: a date with Missy Hyatt. Unfortunately for Scotty, Lawler outclassed him and won the match easily. "The Body" left the ring with bruises from both Lawler and Hyatt—Missy didn't like what she'd seen and took the opportunity to deliver a slap in the face to Gilbert's would-be avenger. The date was off. Another challenger would have to be found.

Loyalty can be a very tenuous thing in the world of wrestling, where alliances are as unpredictable as the stock market. Dory Funk Jr. knows about loyalty. The latest wrestler to come forward for Gilbert, Funk *also* claims that he will not accept his friend's check, and insists that he is going after Lawler out of friendship for the Gilbert family.

Fireworks between Funk and Lawler exploded even before their match. During a bout between Tommy Gilbert and Eddie Marlin, the lines of loyalty were clearly drawn between the two camps. Funk rushed the ring to defend Gilbert, just as did Lawler for Marlin.

But that was only the beginning.

In their own match, Funk and Lawler battled to the limits of aggression; indeed, they were wrestling not only for themselves, but for their volatile supporters as well. The match finally ended when



Lawler succeeded in throwing fire and burning Funk in the face.

"That's exactly the type of tactics Eddie, Curt, and I were trying to eliminate—then he goes and does it again!" Funk howled after the match, his face covered with medicated bandages. "I'll be back. The money's not even a factor. Lawler's gonna pay—in blood and flesh!"

Whatever Funk's rationale, the fact remains that Lawler has a locker room full of enemies for whom the mere mention of "The King" precipitates the most violent reactions. So violent, in fact, that personal gain is forgotten.

They just want to destroy Jerry Lawler.



Hennig leglocks Lawler (top) and shoves a chair against his throat (above).



Gilbert piledrives Lawler (top) and goes for the cover (above). So far, Gilbert has been unable to end "The King's" reign, but he'll keep on trying.

Lawler, characteristically, is uninterested in these attempts to put him out of the game. Perhaps he's just seen it all too many times before.

"\$25,000 ... \$50,000 ... \$100,000. It doesn't matter much to me. Gilbert can offer *any* amount of money. He'll never get *anyone* who can beat me!" Lawler boasted.

But, Jerry, none of them are doing it for the money. How do you feel about that?

"I don't care *why* they're doing it," Lawler said, "but I know one thing: Gilbert's throwing these bums at me because he's afraid of getting in the ring himself. I think if anyone should pick up his challenge it should be him!"

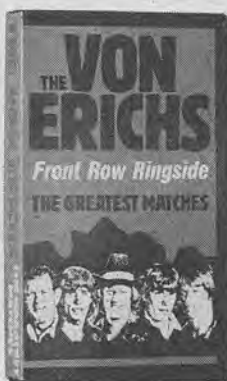
At this point, however, Eddie Gilbert may have to stand in line before getting another shot at Jerry Lawler. There's a united front of wrestlers in Memphis who are eager to cripple Lawler themselves.

Just for fun. □



A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

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BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE



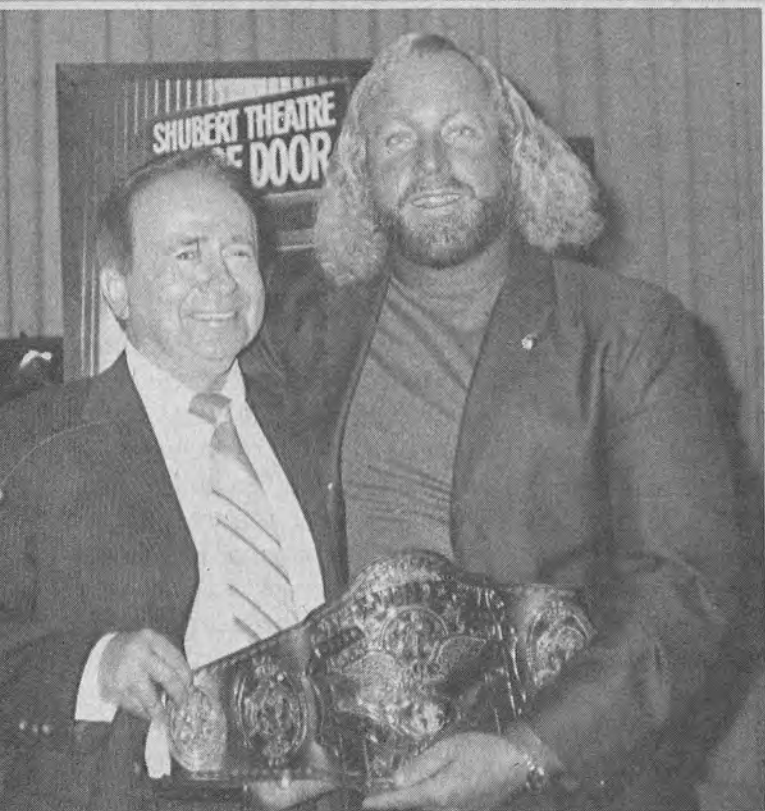
▲ Fred Weiner, Vice-Chairman of Phone Programs, Inc., signs Lou Albano and Bruno Sammartino to a long-term telephone entertainment deal.



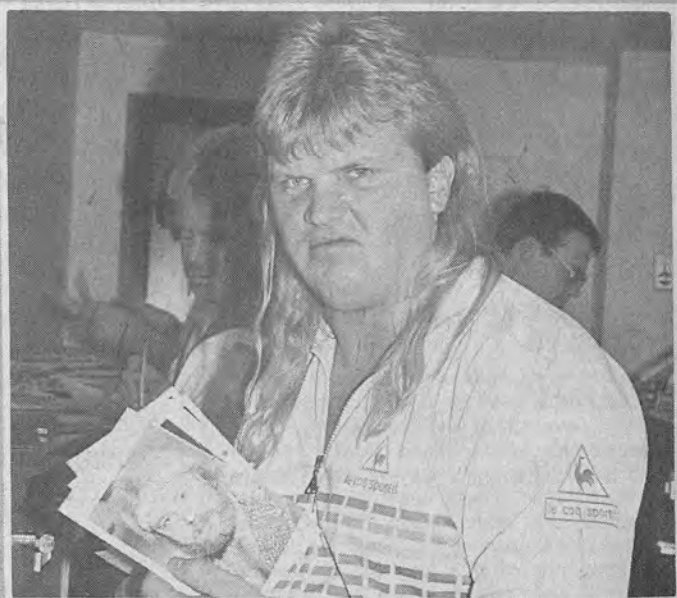
▲ The British Bulldogs arrive at WrestleMania IV with their mascot Matilda, unquestionably the most beautiful dog in the World Wrestling Federation.



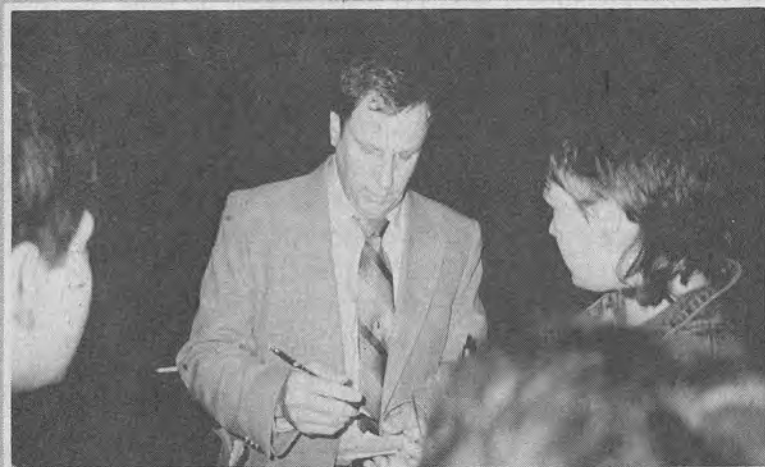
▲ Ric Flair and J.J. Dillon are the two biggest proponents of Four Horsemen dietary supplements, which they claim will enhance an athlete's performance. And perhaps his ego?



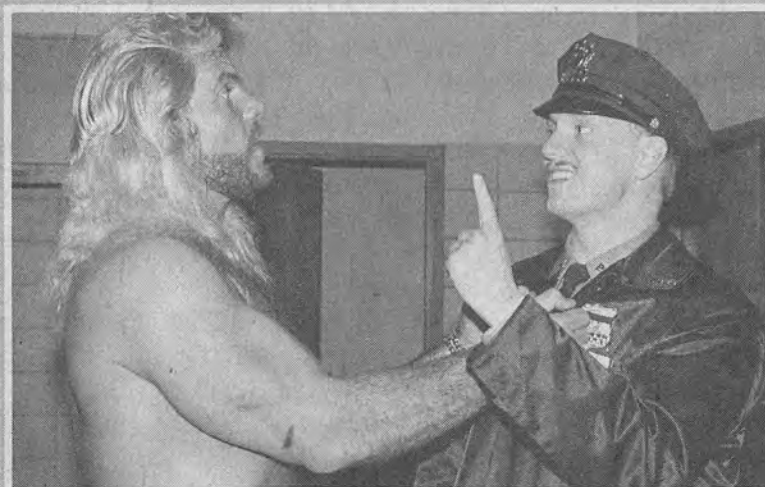
◀ ACCW champion Jack Armstrong visits with popular New York talk show host Joe Franklin. Armstrong is on a crusade to win respect for his little-known title.



▲ On a recent visit to *The Wrestler* offices, *The Midnight Express* checked out our photo files. Bobby Eaton found something he didn't like: a picture of his old partner, Dennis Condrey.



▲ Dave Hebner (or is it Earl? We're *still* not sure!) stops to sign an autograph. Both Hebner brothers continue to referee in the WWF.



▲ Missy Hyatt solicits some advice from Brother Ernest Angel, the Memphis gadfly who claims that his "Good Book" is the answer to all life's problems.

◀ Michael Hayes clowns around with New York City police officer Mike Steinke, a former *Wrestler* editor.

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

Young was distracted by Anderson and Blanchard. When Sting let go of the hold to get Young's attention, Flair attacked him from behind. The champion immediately started working on Sting's legs. Sting came back with elbowsmashes, dropkicks, and a suplex.

The Horsemen were worried. Anderson threw a chair in the ring and Flair used it to open a bloody wound on Sting's head while Young was again distracted. After Flair covered Sting for the three-count, the other Horsemen ran in the ring and proceeded to beat and maul Sting, who was saved by Dusty Rhodes, Steve Williams, Barry Windham, and Lex Luger.

In other bouts: Barry Windham & Lex Luger beat Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard ... Dusty Rhodes pinned Mike Rotundo ... The Midnight Express defeated The Fantastics by disqualification ... Steve Williams beat Rick Steiner ... Tim Horner pinned Tiger Conway Jr. ... Shaska Whatley defeated Mark Fleming.

Jackson, MS (Correspondent—Kevin Kimble): The main event was a match between Kerry Von Erich and Iceman Parsons. The bout started out evenly, with both wrestlers employing impressive holds and counterholds. Later in the match, both men exchanged blows on the floor. Parsons went running toward Kerry, but Kerry moved and caused Parsons to hit the ringpost.

They both returned to the ring and continued trading punches. Iceman threw Kerry through the ropes. As he made his way back into the ring, he headbutted Parsons in the midsection. Dazed, Parsons was easily pinned by Kerry's sunset flip.

In other bouts: Michael Hayes, Solomon Grundy, and Missing

Link defeated Eric Embry, Buddy Roberts, and Iceman Parsons in a cage match ... Hayes pinned Embry ... Roberts & Parsons pinned Link and Grundy ... Embry pinned The Saint.

Lethbridge, Alberta (Correspondent—Ross Williams): "Mayhem" was the key word at the Sportsplex as the main event featured Owen Hart, Bruce Hart, and Brian Pillman against Makhan Singh, "Champagne" Jerry Morrow, and the latest "Karachi Vice" member, Johnny Smith; it was a six-man, fight-to-the-finish bunkhouse brawl inside a steel cage.

"Vice Busters" Hart, Hart, and Pillman dominated the first five minutes of the bout by double-teaming their opponents. Karachi Vice's luck soon changed when manager Abu Weasel tossed a lit cigar to Morrow, who used it on Owen Hart's eye. This move inspired Singh and Smith, who quickly gained the advantage with foreign objects of their own.

The momentum swung back and forth until the 39-minute mark, when Singh threw Pillman into the turnbuckle and attempted a "Karachi Krunch" splash. Just before impact, Pillman jumped onto the second rope and rolled Singh up with a sunset flip. At roughly the same time, the Hart brothers executed flying bodypresses on Smith and Morrow. Referee Jurgen Hermann then made the three-count on all three Vice members. The Harts and Pillman emerged from the cage victorious.

In other bouts: Jason the Terrible pinned Kerry Brown ... Cuban Assassin beat Chris Benoit by countout ... Rip Rogers defeated Suni War Cloud ... Brick Bronsky pinned Goldie Rogers ... Jonathan Holliday pinned Biff Wellington. ☐

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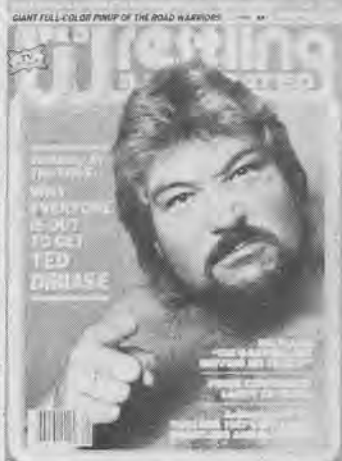
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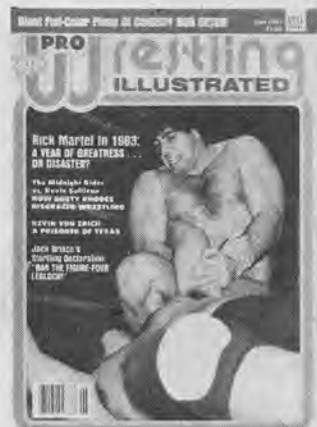
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

and Sting defeated **Dick Murdoch** and **Ivan Koloff** in the second round when Sting pinned Murdoch. The following night in Greensboro, Sting and Luger advanced to the semifinals with a stunning victory over **The Midnight Express**. Sting was being double-teamed by **Bobby Eaton** and **Stan Lane** when Express manager **Jim Cornette** bashed him with his tennis racket. But Sting managed to fight his way out of trouble and pin Lane.

Sting and Luger then held off a powerful assault by **Warlord** and **Barbarian** in the semifinals. Luger was being double-teamed by **The Powers of Pain** when Barbarian lifted Luger for a bodyslam. Sting, however, dropkicked Luger, who fell on top of Barbarian for the easy pin. In the other semifinal match, Anderson and Blanchard defeated **The Fantastics** when Arn floored **Tommy Rogers** with manager **J.J. Dillon's** shoe and covered him for the pin.

In the final, Sting was getting brutalized outside the ring while the referee was distracted. When the action returned to the ring, Sting managed to fight back by using his stinger splash and scorpion leglock on Blanchard. But Anderson interfered and executed a vicious gourdbuster on Sting. Luger then tagged in and Anderson set him up for a suplex near the ropes. But Anderson saw Magnum T.A. grabbing at his legs and tried to slug him. Anderson missed and T.A. punched him back, giving Luger time to roll Arn over backward for the pin.

The NWA announced that its July 10 Great American Bash card in Baltimore will be available on pay-per-view TV. NWA World champion **Ric Flair** is scheduled to defend his title against Luger in the main event. There will be 40 cards on the Bash tour this year,

beginning June 26 in Orlando, Florida, and finishing on August 7 in Kansas City ... **Diamond Timothy Flowers** won the Canadian International Wrestling Association championship in a tournament at Douglas College in New Westminster, British Columbia. Flowers beat **Joey Jackson** in the final. The tournament was unique in that every match was held in a steel cage! ... **The Fantastics** captured the U.S. tag team belts from **The Midnight Express** in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when **Bobby Fulton** pinned **Bobby Eaton** ... **Shane Douglas**, **Terry Taylor**, and **Paul E. Dangerously** are negotiating contracts with the Continental Wrestling Federation. **Jerry Lawler** and **Eddie Gilbert** are both wrestling in the CWA and the CWF, so look for Continental to make great strides over the next few months. **Lawler**, by the way, had **Missy Hyatt** as his maid for a day! Lawler defeated **Gilbert's** bounty hunter, **Robert Fuller**, and Missy was the prize. Look for a complete story on her ordeal in the September 1988 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

Although there is a traditional dropoff in attendance in the WWF immediately following WrestleMania, approximately 20,000 fans



Missy Hyatt is not happy about doing Jerry Lawler's laundry. Hyatt was forced to serve as Lawler's maid for a day when "The King" defeated Eddie Gilbert's bounty hunter Robert Fuller.

packed Madison Square Garden as new World champion **Randy Savage** took on **Ted DiBiase** in his first title defense against **Ted DiBiase**. Savage defeated DiBiase in final round of the title tournament, but lost by countout at the Garden. Savage suffered a brutal



Randy "Macho Man" Savage throws Ted DiBiase across the ring in his first WWF World title defense after WrestleMania IV. The "Million-Dollar Man" won the match by countout.

beating at the hands of DiBiase and was enraged when the "Million-Dollar Man" strapped the belt around his waist at the end of the match. Former champion **Hulk Hogan**, meanwhile, has not requested a match against the "Macho Man."

Stampede North American champion **Owen Hart** is defending his title against "Strangler" **Steve DiSalvo**. DiSalvo has allied himself with **Johnny Smith** (brother of the WWF's **Davey Boy Smith**) and **Makhan Singh**. Davey Boy is reportedly irate at Johnny for becoming a rulebreaker ... **Rick Patterson** left the Central States area, so the Central States tag belts he held with **Stevie Ray** have been declared vacant ... **Chris** and **Mark Youngblood** won the WWC Caribbean tag belts from **Bobby Jagers** and **Dan Kroffat** on April 23 in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico ... **Big John Studd** is negotiating with WWF officials for a possible September return.

And that's what's happening! See you at the matches. ☐

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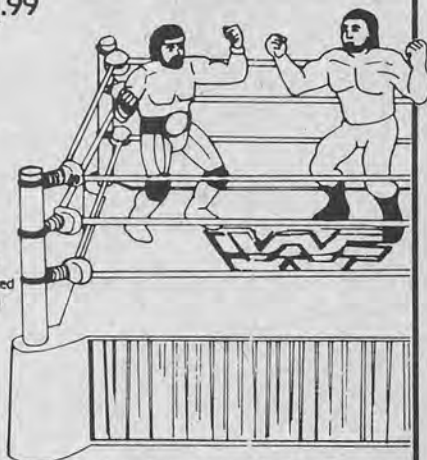
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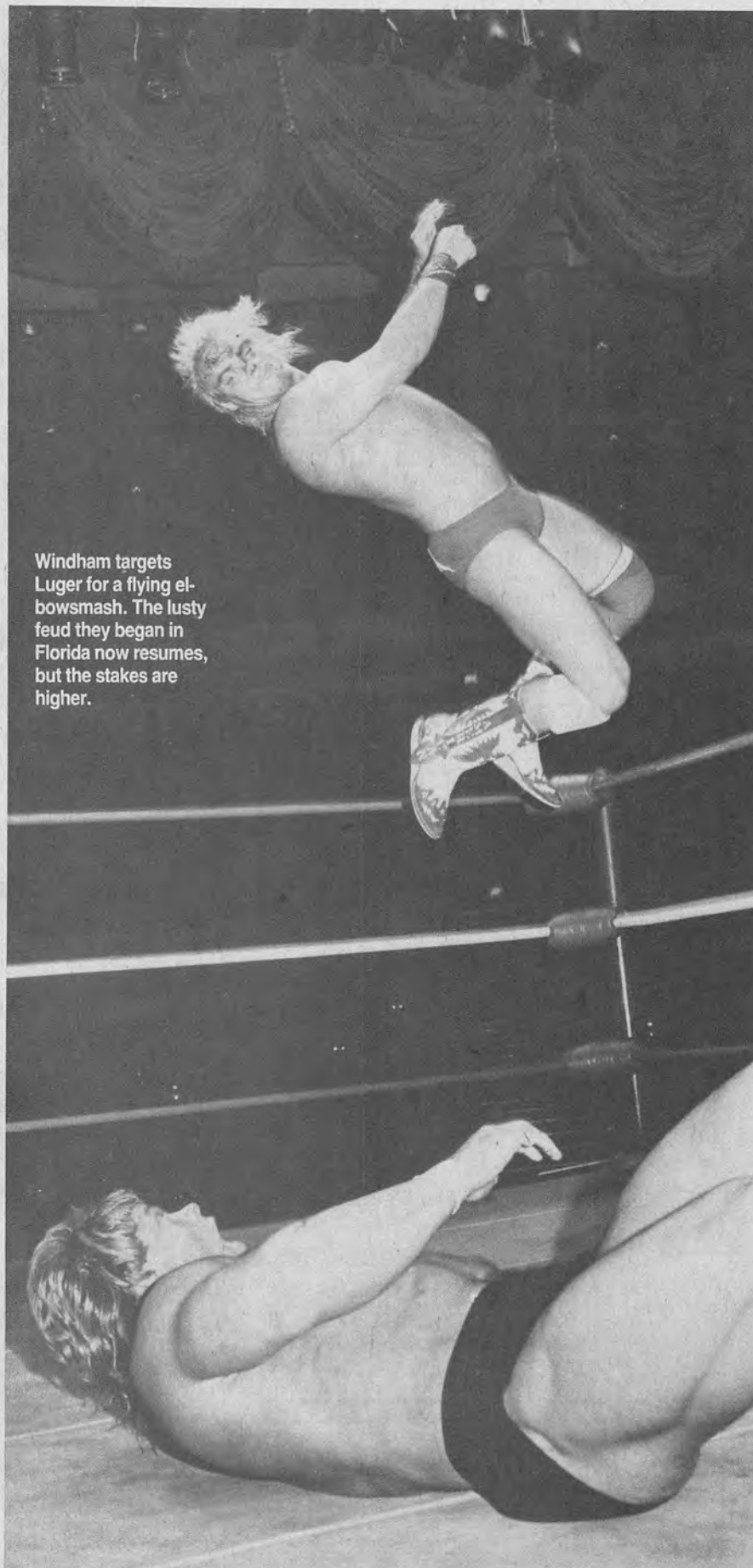
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WINDHAM & LUGER

(Continued from page 35)



Windham targets Luger for a flying elbowsmash. The lusty feud they began in Florida now resumes, but the stakes are higher.

for Windham and Luger—as had most others during their 25-day title reign—but the climate changed when Blanchard rammed Luger into a ringpost outside the ring after an already-injured Luger had tagged out. Luger's head spurted blood as he struggled in vain to get back on the ring apron. Meanwhile, Windham was receiving a savage beating from Anderson inside the ring. When Windham twice made his way to his corner for a tag, no one was there as the nearly unconscious Luger staggered around ringside, valiantly attempting to return to the apron.

Anderson and Blanchard continued to pummel Windham, and Luger finally made his way to the ring apron. Windham slapped Luger's hand in an insulting mock tag, then bodyslammed and clotheslined his partner, leaving Luger unconscious for an easy Anderson pin. The title was back in the hands of the Horsemen.

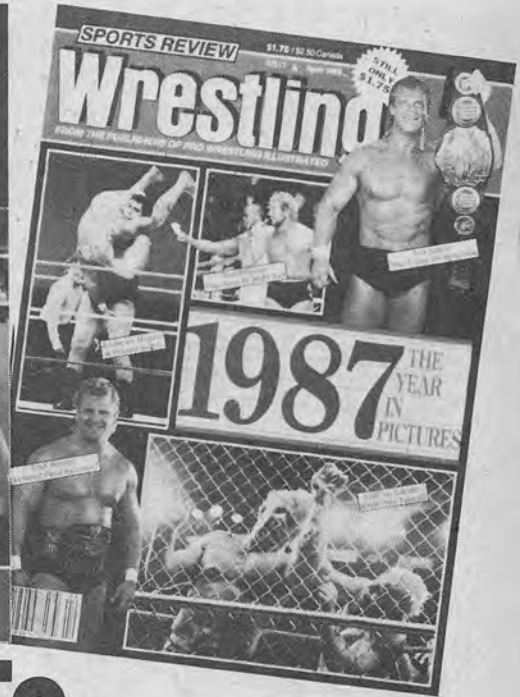
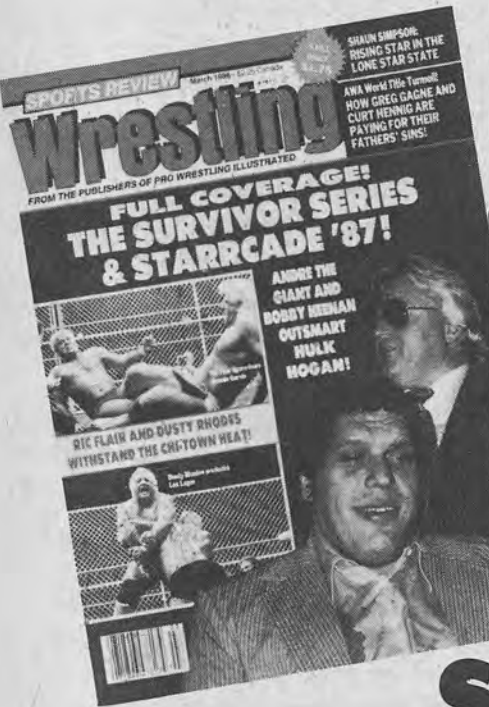
After the match, The Midnight Rider stormed the rulebreakers' dressing room to try to speak with Windham, but he was ganged up on by about a dozen wrestlers. Windham managed to remove Rider's mask, but the intervention of Sting and several others prevented a national television audience from learning the Rider's identity.

While this situation was startling to most fans, many NWA observers insist that Windham's actions were premeditated. It is a claim that is hard to dispute when the facts are closely examined, particularly in light of Dillon's past:

Fact: When Windham was staggering toward his corner only to find it empty, Dillon was shouting at him from outside the ring: "I told you he wouldn't be there! He won't be there when you need him!" Obviously, Windham and Dillon had spoken before this bout. After the match,

(Continued on page 50)

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WINDHAM & LUGER

(Continued from page 48)

Dillon presented Windham with a new Four Horsemen jacket, saying, "we had it all picked out for you."

Fact: Windham was becoming jealous of Luger. In recent weeks during Windham-Luger TV interviews, it was too much of The Lex Luger Show, at least as far as Windham was concerned. Windham, according to many sources, was unhappy with being pushed into a secondary role.

Fact: Fans at Nassau Coliseum in New York were puzzled during a tag title bout against Anderson and Blanchard about two weeks before Windham's change of heart. Luger began the match for his team, but Windham looked bored. At one point, he looked out to the ringside fans and asked, "You paid to see me too, didn't you?" Fans didn't know what Windham meant—until now.

Fact: Flair was actively pursuing Windham for the Horsemen when Luger left the fold in January. Although Windham refused the invitation at the time, he probably remembered how Dillon tried to woo him when he made his decision to turn against Luger.

Windham refused comment for days after the title change, but Dillon was easily accessible. He had the satisfied look of a man in power.

"I knew that Barry had a bellyful of that egomaniac," claimed Dillon. "But I never talked to Barry before that match. I don't care what anybody thinks. I have the greatest roster of Four Horsemen in history—Flair, Anderson, Blanchard, and Windham."

Although Windham is tight-lipped on the situation, one man knows both Windham and Dillon better than any other. That man happens to be Lex Luger.

The day after the title change, Luger was an outpatient at a Florida hospital. After receiving stitches to his head and chiropractic therapy for his back, he met with a small group of reporters who were anxious to get



Luger bearhugs Arn Anderson. Because he was once a Horseman, Luger is an expert on what could happen to Windham.

his reactions to one of the most incredible days in wrestling history.

"Everybody lost this one," said Luger. "Barry may have gained a new lifestyle, but he's lost his soul—I ought to know. Anderson and Blanchard really didn't do anything to deserve those belts. You know, I didn't know what happened until The Midnight Rider told me after they carried me to the dressing room. Barry's turned his back on me. He's been seduced by Dillon. I can't believe this is happening."

It wasn't supposed to end this way. Luger and Windham were the best hope of the fans to end the NWA dominance of The Four Horsemen. They were the ones that returned prestige to the tag title. When it seemed the balance of power was beginning to shift, Dillon managed to gain the advantage.

Just like he always does. ☐

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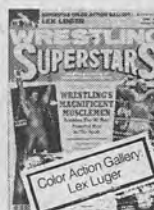
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DEMOLITION

(Continued from page 37)

tana and Martel combined to set up Ax or Smash for one of their off-the-ropes acrobatic maneuvers.

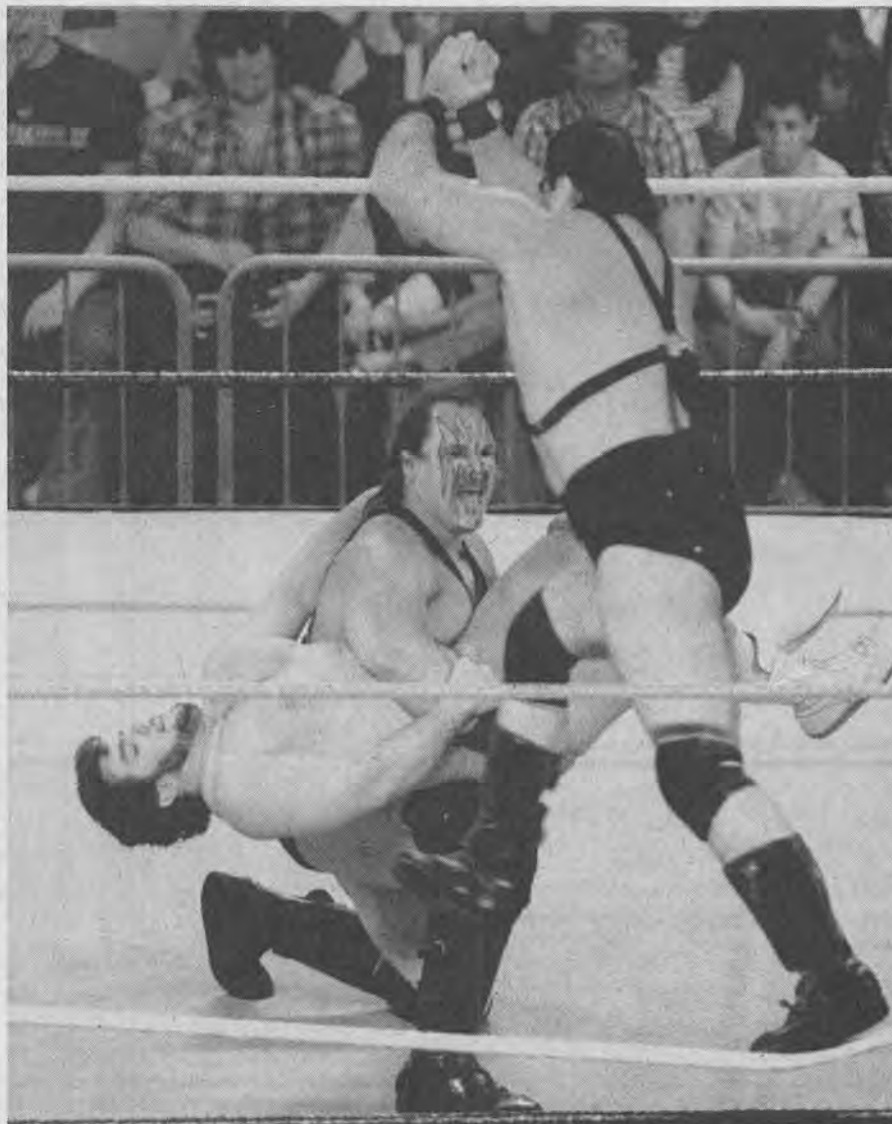
Demolition, naturally, was also guilty of double-teaming maneuvers, but Santana and Martel had no right to complain about losing the belts the way they did. The only reason they complained is because their double-teaming didn't lead to a pin. Besides, Martel and Santana might still have the belts around their waists if Santana didn't push the referee to the mat and knock him unconscious.

By that time, of course, Martel had Smash in a painful Boston crab. Ax ran in to try and save his partner, but Santana ran across the ring and held him off. Santana then went after Fuji, who threw his cane onto the mat. When the referee tried to break them up, Santana viciously tossed him aside. Meanwhile, Ax picked up the cane and smashed Martel across the neck, knocking him flat on his back. Smash covered Martel for the pin and the bewildered ref, who had no idea what happened, made the three-count.

So to answer the first part of the question: Ax and Smash are, by proper standards, fluke champions. But when judged by today's standards, Demolition is nothing out of the ordinary.

As for the second part of the question: Just because Demolition might have been fluke champions doesn't mean that they won't have the belts for a long time. Why Saks, Peters, and Apter thought their cute little question made any sense at all is beyond me.

Let me put it this way: Nobody ever holds the WWF World tag team belts for a long time. No team has ever been champion for as long as two years, and the last five title reigns have lasted an average of about 200 days each. That's



Demolition's brutal maneuvers will keep them WWF World champions for quite a long time, Brock argues, even though WWF tag champs usually don't have lengthy reigns.

barely more than half a year. There's just too much competition in the WWF, and too many things can happen when four men are beating the stuffings out of each other in the middle of the ring. If Ax and Smash are champions to stay, they're bucking tradition.

But I think they can pass that 200-day average, simply because most tag teams win the belts while at the peak of their abilities, while Demolition is one of the most improved tag teams in wrestling and constantly getting better. When they first started teaming, Ax and Smash were an absolute joke. Be-

cause of their outfits and makeup, the obvious comparison was to The Road Warriors. But the truth was that they didn't compare. They *still* don't, but Ax and Smash are getting better. Much better.

They certainly have as much guts as Martel and Santana, and they also have a major size advantage. Add Mr. Fuji into the equation and it's going to be very hard to pin these men. The British Bulldogs are on their way down, Strike Force has lost its momentum, and The Hart Foundation is in disarray.

The odds are in their favor. I'm betting on Demolition. □

Wrestling

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June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

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March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Back cards.

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June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

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March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

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May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arco, Hogan.

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March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.

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TERRY TAYLOR

(Continued from page 33)



Gordy leaves the ring to go after Taylor. If Taylor can get the Freebirds together on his side, he'll have some formidable allies in his war against Chris Adams.

asked rhetorically. "What for? Our match was a classic display of scientific wrestling. Gordy is just like me in a lot of ways. He's as tough as they come, and he backs down from nobody. I had a lot of fun during that bout, and I suspect that Gordy had a good time, too."

Suddenly, Taylor's tone changed. The smile left his face.

"You see, I really respect Gordy and Buddy Roberts," he said as he lay down flat on his back and propped his feet on the armrest of the sofa. "But I respect Michael Hayes, too. That's why I'm sad to see what's happened to the three of them. You see, I can reunite The Freebirds. Actually, I hold the key to their future. I won't tell you my plan, but I can assure you that I'm deadly serious about this. I'm the man who can get this mess worked out..."

"Mr. Taylor?" asked a secretary as she emerged from WCCW President Ken Mantell's office. "You have an appointment with the governing board in 10 minutes."

"That's me, babe," said Taylor, kicking off his shoes. "Tell ol' Kenny that I'm *real* happy to have another fun meeting with him. You can also tell him he looks just like the weasel in those Foghorn Leghorn cartoons."

The secretary went back into the office and slammed the wooden door. Taylor chuckled as he reached for another magazine.

"I'd better not say too much. The walls have ears around here," he said, lowering his voice to a faint whisper. "But don't doubt what I say. The Freebirds are too important to be a thing of the past. That's why I wanna be the one to save them from themselves."

The reporters were ready to dismiss Taylor's comments, as they remembered his history of turning against partners like Chris Adams. Taylor, however, continued to press the topic.

"I've wrestled all three of those Freebirds a number of times," he said. "Each one of them has his own unique talents, but when you put the three of them in one ring it's dynamite, man. It's such a shame to see Hayes teaming with that candy-coated Kerry Von Erich. He should be out busting Von Erich butts, not beating the stuffing out of his own brothers."

The arrogant Taylor propped himself back up on the sofa, put his loafers back on, and straightened his Wembley tie. "You see," he said, "I really think they're the best going today. There's money to be made with this kind of talent. Also, I could use some quality partners to help me get rid of Gentlewoman Chrissy Adams."

"I'm surprised by Hayes," Taylor continued. "'P.S.' should see that he'd go a lot farther with his old partners than he ever could by teaming with the Von Erichs. Look



PWI
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who just won the World Class title—Iceman King Parsons, a friend of the Freebirds! That could have been Hayes up there with that belt. Sticking with the Von Erichs and forsaking Gordy and Roberts is traveling a one-way road to hell. It'll only rush him into obscurity."

"Why should The Freebirds come to you?" asked one reporter. "They hardly know you. After all, you're the guy who turned on Adams—not once, but twice. The second time, you put him out of action for weeks. What possible good could you do for Roberts, Gordy, and Hayes?"

"How dare you!" Taylor belted, now screaming at the reporters. "What good could I do for the 'Birds? Who took the Texas title off Matt Borne his first week here? It was me, that's who. Titles bring main events, and main events bring big money. I wasn't gonna tell you, but since you think you're so smart, I'm gonna give you my foolproof plan on reuniting these guys. I'm gonna ..."

Suddenly, the door to the waiting room swung open. In walked a massive 289-pound wrestler. One of the reporters immediately fled the scene.

"Gordy!" shrieked Taylor, his eyes suddenly wide open. "What are you doing here?"

"Same thing you're doin' here," Gordy said. "I'm here to pay off this stupid fine. Hey, what the hell you so upset about, dude? I could hear you yellin' all the way up the elevator. What got you so hot?"

"Oh, nothing," said Taylor, red-faced and sweating. "Nothing at all."

Three minutes later, Taylor and Gordy were called into Mantell's office. During that time, Taylor didn't say a word. Was Taylor serious about reuniting The Freebirds? To the uneducated eye, Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts would be blind to put their trust in this man. But it's what Taylor *didn't* say that remains a mystery—and could yet bring the Freebird trio together. ☐

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FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

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FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan-Orndorff, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Williams, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, R&R Express, Hart, Hogan-Race, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, Magnum T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan-Andre-DiBiase, Ellering-Dillon-Comette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

Also, on TV we only get the WWF shows. I, however, have become something of an NWA maniac now that I get tapes from a friend in Boston. How I wish we could see matches like the ones I've seen between Sting and Ric Flair!

Another thing: In Australia, we believe that everyone should fight their own battles. For this reason, we don't tolerate managerial or tag team partner interference. The whole idea of a tainted championship is appalling to an Australian.

Finally, why do federations continue to protect fan favorites from bouts with other fan favorites? If Hulk Hogan thinks he is going to get a match with Randy Savage, he is surely mistaken.

ROSS JONES
Boolaroo, Australia

HORSEMEN HERESY

For a minute after reading "How Sting's War With Ric Flair Could Make Him A Horseman" (June 1988), you almost had me believing it. There is no question that the formidable four would benefit from

Sting pulls Ric Flair off the ropes during their 45-minute battle at the Clash of the Champions. Reader Ross Jones writes that this kind of action is rarely seen in his home country of Australia.



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Sting's unique brand of acrobatic wrestling science, but there is no way he will become a Horseman! Why not? If you watched Clash of the Champions, as I did, you would know.

Any wrestler who can endure a no-holds-barred war for 45 full minutes the way Sting relentlessly battled Ric Flair is certainly no man to forget his anger, his aggression, and just join up with his adversary.

Of all wrestlers today, it is Sting who represents the kind of honest wrestling aggression that is in such short supply in this day of quickly shifting alliances.

Besides, Sting knows what it's like to be used by a manager. When he was being managed by Eddie Gilbert, Sting was consistently held back in Gilbert's egotistical drive for titles. He wouldn't even allow Sting to invent his own moves! And we all know how successful the Stinger has been in that department since he broke from Gilbert's oppression!

ALEX BENN
Ocean, NJ

THUMBS DOWN, WRESTLER!

In your April 1988 issue, you gave Ted DiBiase a "thumbs down" for trying to buy the title from Hulk Hogan, then stating that he would buy it from Andre if the Giant won.

Then, in your June issue, you gave
(Continued on page 58)



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<p>Color features include: Hulk Hogan, Baby Doll, Luger, Mantel, Adams, Hogan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUMMER/86</p>	<p>Color features include: Animal vs. Hawk, Koloff, Lance Von Erch</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FALL/86</p>	<p>Color features include: Flair, Rhodes, Lawler, Comette, Missy Hyatt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WINTER/86</p>	<p>Color features include: Nikita Koloff, O'Dorff, R&R Express, Kern</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPRING/87</p>	<p>Color features include: Andre, Midnight, Rockers, Kerry, Billy Jack</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUMMER/87</p>
<p>Color features include: Savage, Steamboat, T.A., Midnight Express, Adams</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FALL/87</p>	<p>Color features include: Four Horsemen, Warriors, DiBiase, Williams</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WINTER/87</p>	<p>Color features include: Hogan, Savage, Blanchard, Sting, Strike Force</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPRING/88</p>	<p>Color features include: Sting & Luger, Warriors, Hogan, Andre, Missy Hyatt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUMMER/88</p>	

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 57)

Hulk Hogan a "thumbs down" for reacting with justifiable rage at the situation. I suppose if similarly robbed, you self-righteous bunch of wimps would have smiled graciously and asked Andre if there was anything else you could do for him. Get real! You would have acted the same way "The Hulkster" did, and so would anybody else.

If anything, Hogan showed remarkable restraint. He merely threw Earl Hebner out of the ring. He could have torn him limb from limb! What Hogan needs now is the support of his fans, not undeserved criticism. Save the "thumbs downs" for those who really deserve it!

ELYSE ZOIS
Union, NJ



Tommy Rich atomic-drops Buzz Sawyer outside the ring. Reader Don Wilcox remembers when Rich was one of the most popular wrestlers in the sport.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

I have been a wrestling fan for close to eight years, and I am very disappointed at what is happening to the sport. My fondest memories bring me back to Georgia Championship Wrestling during the early '80s. Nothing can ever match the excitement that this wrestling area provided.

The wrestlers themselves seem to

have come and gone with the sport's changing of power. Remember when Tommy Rich was the most popular wrestler in the world? Remember Mr. Wrestling II, Masked Superstar, Bob Armstrong, Roddy Piper, and Buzz Sawyer? All of this changed when Vince McMahon Jr. took over the WWF. He killed off the regional promotions and formed one single power. The NWA followed, and the sport will never be the same.

The regional promotions gave excitement and variety to the fans. Whatever happened to the Mid-Atlantic region, Florida, and Mid-South? Each of these areas had their own wrestlers and their own champions.

Now, all we see are the same wrestlers week after week getting lost in the shuffle because one federation has too many wrestlers. Some people say that Vince McMahon has improved wrestling. To me, he has done nothing but ruin the sport I love. Or maybe that should be *loved*.

DON WILCOX
Cranford, NJ

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WINTER 1985



SUMMER 1986



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SPRING 1987

WINTER 1984/Color pinup: Billy Jack Haynes. **Stories include:** Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

people in his time, but I always made it a fair fight. Some of the brothers don't think like I do. I'm gonna have to teach Buddy Jack and 'Bamm Bamm' [Gordy] a lesson if they don't wise up fast. We've had our problems with the Von Erichs, but they're good people. I'm willin' to put aside past differences for the good of everybody concerned. If I could forgive the Von Erichs, the other 'Birds can. It just might take a little longer."

Q: "My question is for Senior Editor Bill Apter: In your career as a wrestling journalist, what was the first match you saw that really got you interested in wrestling, and what are some of the exceptional matches you've seen over the years?"—Mike Acquisto, Stockton, CA

A: Bill Apter replied: "My love of wrestling started in the early 1960s, after I saw a match between the Bastien brothers and the Graham brothers. The Bastiens were offering a chest full of several thousand silver dollars to any team that could beat them. Before the match, which was one of the bloodiest in history, the Grahams took the chest from announcer Ray Morgan and started throwing the money out to the fans! As far as some of the outstanding matches I've seen, a few that come to mind are Mil Mascaras vs. Ivan Koloff at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City in 1975, Buddy Rogers' feud against Killer Kowalski in the mid-'60s, and the Ric Flair-Rick Steamboat series in the early '80s."

Q: "My question is for Gary Hart: Why do you think Al Perez is the greatest Latin wrestler of all time?"—Jay Dougherty, Dubuque, IA

A: "Not only is Mr. Perez the greatest Latin wrestler ever," Hart answered, "he is one of the very best our sport has yet produced. His scientific skills

are impeccable, his ring intelligence is undeniable, and his strategies are . . . well, that's our secret. The people have seen what we did in World Class, but that's only the start. I fully expect us to win the U.S. title. Only the small-mindedness of those in high places will stop us from achieving our goals."

Q: "Do you think Andre the Giant will ever care about the fans again? I think about the days when everybody loved him, and I get sad. I want the old Andre back."—Mari-lynn Rulman, Flagstaff, AZ

A: By his actions over the past year or so, it is becoming more and more apparent that Andre doesn't care what the fans think. When Bobby Heenan and Ted DiBiase took con-



Recent events suggest that Andre the Giant has lost the respect of the fans.

trol of Andre's career, they told him that listening to the fans is what held him back for so many years. Heenan told him that the only way to get a title shot was to turn against his friend Hulk Hogan. In the past, Andre had maintained that he didn't want to wrestle Hogan because they were friends. But Heenan reawakened in Andre a deep yearning to be champion of the world, and DiBiase capitalized on that. Now, with his career coming to an end, it may be too late for the once-gentle giant to turn back. ☐

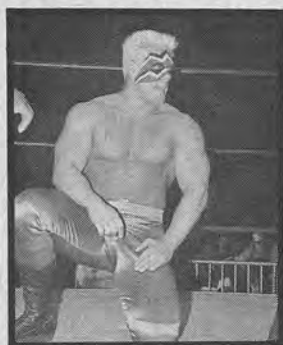
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August 1976/Stories include: Funks, Mascaras, Sammartino, Putski.

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October 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Race, Johnson, Jones.

November 1976/Stories include: Mascaras, Wrestling II, Funk, Sammartino.

December 1976/Stories include: Stasiak, Rhodes, Bockwinkel, Orton.

January 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Brisco, Funk, Gagne.



AUGUST 1977

August 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Mascaras, Lawler.

September 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Mascaras, Brisco.

October 1977/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, Backlund, Mulligan.

November 1977/Stories include: Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras, Gagne.

December 1977/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Johnson, Maivia.

March 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Valentine, Backlund, Bockwinkel.

April 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Graham, Steamboat, Bruiser.

August 1978/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Andre, Hansen.



OCTOBER 1978

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Rhodes, McDaniel.

November 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Backlund, Flair, Steamboat.

December 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Bravo.

January 1979/Stories include: Sammartino, Mulligan, Rhodes, Backlund.



JANUARY 1979

February 1979/Stories include: Race, Sammartino, Steamboat, Ladd.

April 1979/Stories include: Andre, Flair, Backlund, Jones.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Rhodes, Backlund, Heenan.

June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

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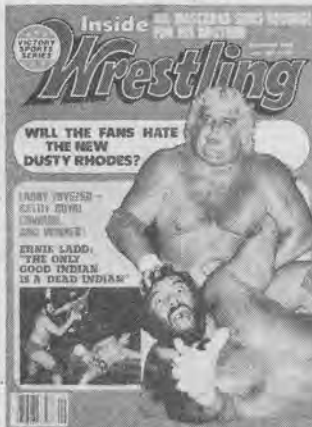
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SEPTEMBER 1980

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

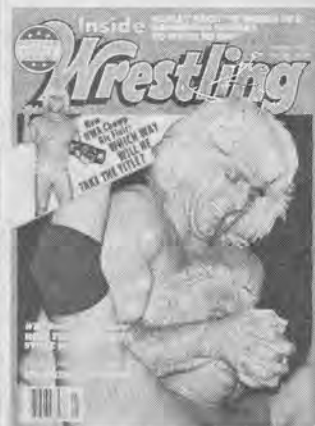
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June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.



JANUARY 1982

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

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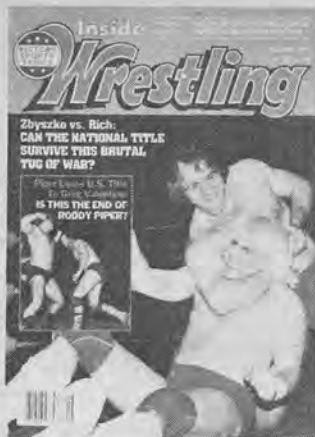
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

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July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

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SEPTEMBER 1983

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

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November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

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October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

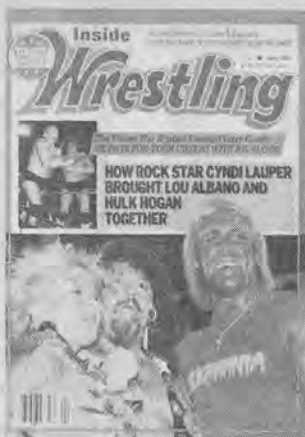
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February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.



APRIL 1985

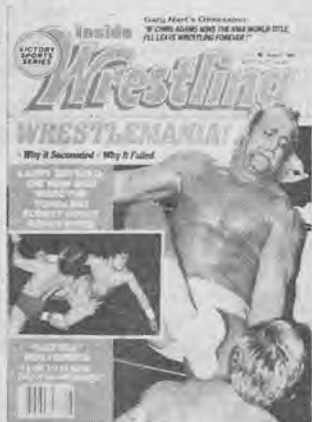
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.



AUGUST 1985

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

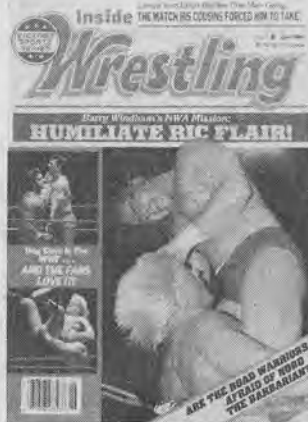
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.



JUNE 1986

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Rusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

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Wrestler^{THE}



Ric Flair

TOP 10

- 1 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 1 contender: NWA title
- 4 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
AWA World champion
- 5 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 6 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 7 TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
World Class Texas champion
- 8 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 9 MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
NWA TV & Florida champion
- 10 OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta
Stampede North American champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 2 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
All-Japan Intl. tag team champions
- 3 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 4 STING & LEX LUGER**
Combined weight: 528 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 5 THE FANTASTICS**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 6 THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 7 WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 8 PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 9 STEVE & SHAUN SIMPSON**
Combined weight: 430 pounds
Wild West tag team champions
- 10 BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**
Combined weight: 437 pounds
Stampede Intl. tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 4—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 6—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
- 8—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 9—JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—SHANE DOUGLAS**
223, Pittsburgh, PA

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 3—HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 5—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 7—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 10—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 4—PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 5—SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia
- 6—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 7—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 9—RICKY RICE**
230, Edina, MN
- 10—PAT TANAKA**
226, Honolulu, HI

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
ICEMAN PARSONS

245, St. Louis, MO

- 1—TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 2—MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 3—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 5—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 6—CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
- 7—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 8—BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 9—BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
- 10—BILL IRWIN**
250, Duluth, MN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 7 MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 8 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 9 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 10 THE MIDNIGHT RIDER**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 4 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5 EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 7 LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 8 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 9 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: unrated
- 10 ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

For period ended April 28, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1—RIC FLAIR | 94 points |
| 2—HULK HOGAN | 82 points |
| 3—RANDY SAVAGE | 54 points |
| 4—LEX LUGER | 54 points |
| 5—CURT HENNIG | 43 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS | 89 points |
| 2—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ... | 77 points |
| 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE | 69 points |
| 4—THE HART FOUNDATION | 56 points |
| 5—RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA | 48 points |

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART

223, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2—MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 3—STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 4—JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
- 5—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 6—BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 7—JERRY MORROW**
235, Martinique
- 8—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 9—CUBAN ASSASSIN**
236, Cuba
- 10—YANG CHUNG**
230, Peking, China

CWA

CWA Champion:
MAX PAIN

350, Iowa City, IA

- 1—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 3—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—GARY YOUNG**
240, Houston, TX
- 5—SCOTT STEINER**
235, Detroit, MI
- 6—TOMMY GILBERT**
230, Lexington, TN
- 7—BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL
- 8—DOUG GILBERT**
230, Lexington, TN
- 9—TOM BRANDY**
231, Chippendale, NY
- 10—KEN WAYNE**
208, Memphis, TN

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TITLE VACANT

See "Ratings Analysis"

- 1—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 2—LORD HUMONGOUS**
325, parts unknown
- 3—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 4—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 5—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 6—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 7—DETROIT DEMOLITION**
310, Detroit, MI
- 8—TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 10—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN

ALL-JAPAN

PWF Champion:
GENICHIRO TENRYU

255, Katsuyama, Japan

- 1—JUMBO TSURUTA**
268, Yamanashi, Japan
- 2—BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 3—MASANOBU FUCHI**
222, Kitakyushu, Japan
- 4—SHOHEI BABA**
265, Niigata, Japan
- 5—STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
- 6—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Khartoum, Sudan
- 7—TIGER MASK**
224, Saitama, Japan
- 8—HIROSHI WAJIMA**
255, Yokohama, Japan
- 9—JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 10—JOHN TENTA**
385, Surrey, British Columbia

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Let's analyze! After all, the name of this column is "Ratings Analysis," so let's take a look at the Top 10 singles and tag team ratings.

First, the singles. NWA World champion **Ric Flair** remains in the top spot off yet another impressive series of title defenses against **Sting**, **Nikita Koloff**, and **Lex Luger**. His match schedule remains heavy; although Flair often cheats, his ability can't be denied ... WWF World champion **Randy Savage** hasn't held the belt long enough to earn the top spot, but early indications look like his title defense schedule will be much heavier than **Hulk Hogan's**. Savage has already defended against **Ted DiBiase** and **Andre the Giant** ... **Sting** has made great strides toward the NWA World title, and his

draw against Flair at the Clash of the Champions was a big reason for his ranking ... AWA World champion **Curt Hennig** might have the most pure talent of all the world champions, but he rarely defends the belt and his quality of opposition is not as high as it could be ... **Ted DiBiase**, an outstanding scientific wrestler who has taken to rulebreaking since coming to the WWF, will give Savage all the trouble he can handle ... **Lex Luger** has certainly lost some of his luster since dropping the U.S. title, but he's still one of the most talented



Curt Hennig

stars in wrestling ... **Terry Taylor** is another outstanding wrestler and the current World Class Texas champion ... Former WWF World champ **Hulk Hogan** probably won't ever wrestle Savage for the belt, but his impact on wrestling over the past four years earned him a spot in the top 10 ... **Mike Rotundo**, another outstanding scientific star who has turned to rulebreaking, has two titles: Florida and NWA TV ... Some people think **Owen Hart** is the best young prospect in wrestling, and we're not arguing with them. Stampede North American champion since April 1987, Owen has been successful on the tough Japan circuit.

Now for the tag teams. A big change this month: NWA World tag champs **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** jump from number five to number one in the ratings off their victory over **Barry Windham** and **Lex Luger** for the belts. It's debatable whether Tully and Arn would have won if Windham didn't turn against Luger, but **The Road Warriors'** fall from glory is the main reason for their top ranking. **Hawk** and **Animal** were eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Crockett Cup and have been unable to win the NWA World belts ... **Demolition** completed its first month as WWF World champs and only defended the belts a few times. One of those was a victory over former champs **Strike Force** ... **Sting** and **Lex Luger**, the new team in town, debut at number four off their resounding Crockett Cup victory ... U.S. tag champions **The Fantastics** have made their mark on the NWA. **Bobby Fulton** and **Tommy Rogers** are outstanding wrestlers who rarely tire and never give up ... **Bobby Eaton** and **Stan Lane**, **The Midnight Express**, continue to be a formidable duo ... **Warlord** and **Barbarian** are the sixth NWA tag team in the top seven. They've proven their worth against the Warriors ... **Pat Tanaka** and **Paul Diamond** recently won the AWA tag belts, but a poor referee's decision put them where they are now ... Small but high-flying,

Steve and **Shaun Simpson** prove that looks can be deceiving. They've held off a tough pack of challengers for the Wild West tag belts ... **Bruce Hart** and **Brian Pillman** have held the Stampede International tag belts since November 13, 1987.

Ratings confusion. Several of the federations rated here have more than one heavyweight champion, and many of the secondary titles are important enough to warrant the holder an automatic high rating.



Mike Rotundo

Following the World champion, the number-one spot in the NWA is reserved for the U.S. champion; that title is currently vacant pending a tournament in Houston on May 13. The Western States champion (currently **Larry Zbyszko**) and the NWA TV champ (currently **Mike Rotundo**) do not receive automatic rankings, but are usually placed high.

In the WWF, Intercontinental champion **The Honky Tonk Man** is automatically the number-one contender to the World champion. AWA TV champion **Greg Gagne** is rated number one in the AWA below World champion **Curt Hennig**, but this is not an automatic ranking; there are none in the AWA. The World Class Texas champion, currently **Terry Taylor**, is always rated right behind the World Class heavyweight champion, but there are no automatic rankings in CWA, Stampede, and Continental.

Speaking of Continental. An update on Continental Championship Wrestling and U.S.A. Wrestling from last month: Continental has now declared itself a completely distinct entity from the U.S.A. group. We now will list Continental as a single entry each month. U.S.A. becomes part of our revolving ratings category. Continental officials **David Woods** and **Jack Curtis** have announced that all current titles have been surrendered, and a title tournament is now being conducted. The tournament will culminate with a card titled "The Road To Birmingham," at which a new champion will be crowned.

Oriental observations. Our revolving ratings category takes a look at the All-Japan area, known around the world as being the site of some of the most action-packed wrestling matches in history. Currently, the top man in the federation is **Genichiro Tenryu**, who holds the PWF heavyweight champion as well as one-half of the PWF tag team championship with **Ashura Hara**. Tenryu captured the singles title in March from **Stan Hansen**, a former AWA World heavyweight champion.

All's well that ends well! Any comments on our Top 10 ratings? Want more on the Japanese wrestling scene? Don't agree with our number-one contender decisions? Address mail to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □



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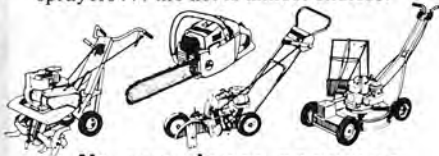
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